00086063

THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BOMBAY
TOWN HALL, BOMBAY-400 023.

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 20 February, 2016

AN

AIDE-DE-CAMP'S RECOLLECTIONS

OF

SERVICE IN CHINA,

ETC.

VOL. II.

On Stone by B. Clayton

Drawn by The Hon.ble R. Spencer R.H.A.

HONG KONG.

AN

AIDE-DE-CAMP'S RECOLLECTIONS

OF

SERVICE IN CHINA,

A Residence in Hong-Kong,

AND VISITS TO OTHER ISLANDS IN THE CHINESE SEAS.

8606 3/c

BY

CAPTAIN ARTHUR CUNYNGHAME,

AIDE-DE-CAMP TO MAJOR-GENERAL LORD SALTOUN, K.C.B. G.C.H. COMMANDING HER MAJESTY'S AND THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY'S TROOPS IN CHINA.

3-9-21

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON

SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

1844.

91.E.1
Cun|Aid
86063

CONTENTS

OF

THE SECOND VOLUME.

CHAPTER XIV.

Start for Chin-hae — The fort of Chin-hae — Town of Chin-hae—Emperor Kiang-hai—Silk guns—Chinese grotto—Caricatures—Timidity of the people—Chinese law—Poo-to-ee—Temple in Poo-to-ee—Idols—Matso-poo — Sugar junks — Pirates—Mode of burial—Coffins—Burial in the south—Kidnapping—The place of worship—Order for sailing—Regret at leaving . p. 1

CHAPTER XV.

War services concluded—Napoleon's opinion of a war with China—Superiority of the Chinese to the Egyptian—Trade of Russia with China—The Nehrbudda tragedy—Difficulties of the Chinese language—Their politeness and treachery—Religion—Form of oath . 31

CHAPTER XVI.

Grand Banquet—Effects of intemperance—Four-in-hand—Peeping Tom and Molly Maloney of the Royal Irish — Practice of infanticide — Grounding of the Phlegethon — Foo-chow — Mr. Davis's work on China 54

CHAPTER XVII.

Hong-Kong — Description of the island — Typhoons — Recent improvements — Opium smuggling — Climate — Mortality — Piracy and murder — Matrimonial speculations — Market prices of young ladies — Portrait painter — English artist at Canton — Bogue forts — Whampoa — Smuggling — The wooden collar . . . 70

CHAPTER XVIII.

Canton — Curiosity shops — Manufacture of antiquities — Food — The Sha-ming — Chinese frigate — Hospitality — Defences of Canton — Restricted intercourse with the natives — Extent of the opium trade — Head-quarters of the smugglers — Mercantile profits — Robbery by an American 117

CHAPTER XIX.

Arrival at Manila — Formalities — Caregidor — Hospitality of the Spaniards — Town of Manila — Inhabitants — Present for the queen — The calsada — Government feluccas — Religious procession — Santa Cruz . 142

CHAPTER XX.

Cocoa-nut trees — Cocoa-nut brandy — Hot springs — Crocodiles — Hodgson's pale ale — Pasig — Horseflesh — A tailor's revenge — Ferry-boat — Indian robbers — Start for San Mateo — Canoes — The blood-hound — Buffaloes — Indian fête — Magellan — Hospitality . 168

CHAPTER XXI.

Belleguia — Quingoa — Convent of Malolos — Mass — A soldier-priest — Mode of salutation — Rope manufac-

tories—Dockyard—Return to China—The Philippines—Barbarity—Insurrection—Executions—Influence of religion—Climate and soil—Productive colony—Manila sugar 204

CHAPTER XXII.

Hong-Kong—Mortality—Its supposed cause—Sincapore—Tigers—The Dutch outlaw—Comfortable eyrie—Remarkable tree—Penang—An English rajah—His philanthropy—Calcutta—Pilots—Palace—Fort William—The hookah 233

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Bentinck—Madras—The surf—Masula boats—Catamarans—Fort George—Madras club—Climate—Westminster Abbey—Ticklish anchorage—Galle—Colombo—Speculation 268

CHAPTER XXIV.

Increase of passengers—Affair of the heart—Socotra—Its deadly climate—The Hindostan—Cape Guardafui—Aden—Wicker-work hotel—The camp, and pass—The Red Sea—Comforts of the steam boats—Pilgrims—Change of temperature . . . 281

CHAPTER XXV.

Mounts Sinai and Horeb—Suez—Crossing the Desert—Andrews' chaises—Grand Cairo—Joseph's Well—Shorba Gardens—Pyramids of Giser—Track boats—Pompey's pillar—Cleopatra's needle—Camels—Dockyards—Sir Ralph Abercrombie . . . 297

CHAPTER XXVI.

The Great Liverpool—Mountains of Candia—Malta—St. Elmo—Quarantine—Sicily—Mount Etna—Pantleria — Tunis — Bona — Algiers — Abd-el-kader — Gibraltar—Europa point—Trafalgar—Cape St. Vincent—Bay of Biscay—Isle of Wight . . 319

AN

AID-DE-CAMP'S RECOLLECTIONS

OF

SERVICE IN CHINA,

ETC.

CHAPTER XIV.

Start for Chin-hae — The fort of Chin-hae — Town of Chin-hae—Emperor Kiang-hai—Silk guns—Chinese grotto—Caricatures—Timidity of the people—Chinese law—Poo-to-ee—Temple in Poo-to-ee—Idols—Ma-tso-poo — Sugar junks — Pirates—Mode of burial — Coffins — Burial in the south — Kidnapping — The place of worship—Order for sailing—Regret at leaving.

SOME few days after our arrival at Chuṣan, we received an invitation from the commander of H.M.S. Pelican to accompany him, in the first instance, to Chin-hae, a town situated at the foot of the hill, which commands the entrance to the Ning-po

river, and which not inaptly might be styled a little Gibraltar—and, perchance, in other hands, would have proved one; and afterwards to pay a visit to the far-famed island called Poo-to-ee, the Mecca of the Chinese.

We embarked on board his comfortable little ship on a lovely morning, in the commencement of October; and, with a fine north-westerly breeze at the first of the flood-tide, stood out of the harbour. The distance from Spithead to Chin-hae is about thirty miles; but when the tide, which occasionally runs six or seven knots per hour, is favourable, this is not unfrequently accomplished in two hours. In this instance, although with a foul wind, we were only three and a half in performing the voyage, being favoured by the current; yet the sailing qualities of the brig, and the superior way in which she was handled, doubtless contributed much to so speedy a passage. On nearing the mouth of the river, the small Chinese fort, situated on the summit of the hill, had a very pleasing effect. It appeared completely to command the entrance of the river; and but for its proxi-

mity to another peak, immediately on the opposite bank, might indeed be said to be a tiny Gibraltar. We cast anchor on the outer side of some large piles which had been placed as a means of preventing the ingress of our ships during the early part of the war by the authorities of Ning-po, little fancying how speedily all their labour would be demolished, or rendered useless.

A broad stone pathway led us to the summit of the citadel, where we met the commandant, to whom were presented orders to evacuate the fort, and return to Chusan as soon as possible, an order he was by no means sorry to receive, the garrison having been next to prisoners all the time they had occupied the fort, during which we had been enjoying such stirring scenes as I have attempted to describe in some of the foregoing pages. From the fort we had a fine commanding view of the surrounding country; towards the south-west, at an apparent distance of eight or nine miles, we could discern a pagoda which, we were informed, marked the situation of the town of Ning-po. Chin-hae, which lay immediately below us,

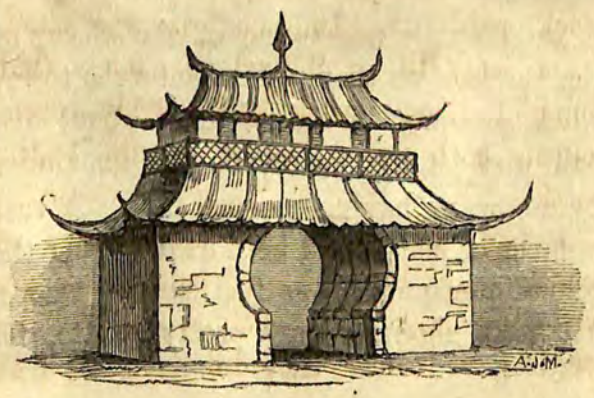
seemed to have once been a large place, but ruin and desolation marked each corner of the town. It was, in common with most Chinese towns, surrounded by a wall, though by no means a lofty one, ingress and egress being confined to gateways situated in all convenient places, with small guard-rooms above each. A stone facing, which had been constructed to resist the encroachments of the sea, and which extends a very considerable distance beyond the walls, cannot fail to attract the attention of however casual an observer. This fine piece of masonry was built during the reign of the emperor Kiang-hai, and remains one of the innumerable proofs of that industry which astonishes as well as pleases the beholder in whatever portion of the empire he may wander. On the walls of this fort were mounted some curious guns, which were composed of plates of iron bound together by rings of the same metal. They measured about five feet in length, and carried a ball of about two pounds weight, English. Upon our first capture of this city, a considerable cannon foundry was discovered. Indeed,

they here seemed more skilled in this art than anywhere else, although I will not aver that they shewed any profound skill in the science of fabricating these deadly weapons anywhere throughout the empire. Some guns had been here captured made also of plates of iron similar to those I myself saw, but in the place of being bound together by rings, these had been most skilfully lapped round with silk. So well, indeed, had this been done, and such a tough material did this prove to be, that, surprising as it may be thought, they, for a considerable time, resisted the expansive power of gunpowder; and it was not until they had been fired constantly by the Chinese that they either burst or became useless.

In company with some of the officers of the garrison we then walked into the town, which presented a sad picture—about one half was totally destroyed, the remainder by no means having escaped free. A vast number of houses had been used, during the cold winter months, as fuel for the troops. We were shewn a very pretty grotto, for

which the Chinese are so justly celebrated Although curious in the extreme, it was ridiculously childish, and in all did not occupy much more space than a large-sized room. In it were ingeniously constructed passages, stair-cases, and arbours innumerable, formed by pieces of rock heaped upon one another—the whole as if by accident, or the freak of nature ; and although none could help admiring the cleverness of its construction, at the same time we could not help regretting that so much time and ingenuity should have been thrown away with so paltry a result.

Amongst our rambles through the town, I was struck by a handsome gateway, containing a fine stone arch, built somewhat



after the Moorish style; above it a verandahed pavilion, which during the time we had occupied the town had served for a guard-house, for which it was admirably suited, from its central position.

I must not omit to mention our having accidentally stumbled upon the shop of a native caricaturist, who had been depicting, for the benefit of his more distant countrymen, various representations of the red-bristled barbarians. Poor fellow, on being discovered he was struck dumb with consternation, expecting at least a sound bambooing for the liberty he had taken with our figures and habits, when, much to his surprise and that of the bystanders, we not only laughed immoderately at his productions, but retaining possession of his whole stock, paid him handsomely for the same. I am sorry to be obliged to confess that some of them struck home, freely representing both services as no enemies to the bottle.

I had afterwards an opportunity of seeing many very talented caricatures, for when the artists found their productions no longer gave offence, they did not scruple to

exhibit them. Amongst the most amusing, and by no means untrue to character, was that of a certain general in the early portion of the expedition, in the act of himself bargaining for a fowl, his eagerness to obtain the fowl, and moreover at his own price, being depicted with such spirit and truth as would have done justice to the pencil of the far-famed "H. B." himself.

It forcibly struck our whole party, that the people here seemed more frightened and timid than we elsewhere had been accustomed to see them. This, perhaps, is not to be wondered at, considering the frightful example which had been made of their once flourishing town, added to the awful slaughter which the Chinese troops sustained when it fell, which troops were principally, if not entirely, a species of militia; consequently the inhabitants of the place itself, or of the immediate neighbourhood.

On the following morning, we again weighed anchor, it blowing at the time a good smart breeze from the northward, thereby sending a bit of swell upon the beach. While in the act of so doing, a Chinese boat, containing about a dozen unlucky

passengers, was upset by a squall of wind, about a quarter of a mile distant from us; and, although we repeatedly called out to the boats, which were numerous on all sides of her, to give the unfortunate creatures who were struggling in the water all the assistance which lay in their power, not one of them would stretch out a friendly hand in relief; but, on the contrary, their utmost exertions seemed to be bent upon getting as far away from her, and her late occupants, as they possibly could. The lieutenant of the watch, Mr. C——, seeing this was the case, sent, with the utmost dispatch, one of the brig's boats, which fortunately arrived in time to save a good many—I believe the whole of them—every one of whom would else have perished. The boat itself was washed upon the beach, and there met by a crowd of people, who quickly charged themselves with the care of its contents; but whether from friendly motives or from those of an opposite character, we were not able to determine. I took some pains afterwards to make inquiries into the reason of the barbarity that was displayed by the

crews of the numerous boats around her, and ascertained that it originated, and was still practised, through the perversity of their own laws, which invariably attached the crime of murder to those with whom the dead bodies may be found, regardless of any account that may be given by them of the circumstances which occurred. The punishment for the alledged crime can then only be averted by appealing to the clemency of the mandarin before whom the parties are brought; and it may be readily imagined that the hearts of these stubborn gentry are not to be softened unless the palms of their hands are greased by sycee.

As we were proceeding out of the mouth of the river we met a host of fishing-boats returning with the fruits of their night's toil, from whom we obtained a supply of very fine fish. During the whole occupation of this town and river, there was a constant supply of this luxury, from the host of boats which were employed in their capture; and not only did they benefit in this alone, but thereby obtained a supply of ice, in which the Chinese are accustomed, as I have before said, to pack them.

We reached Chusan again about 1 P.M., and having exchanged signals with the commanding officer, proceeded on our way to Poo-to-ee, without coming to anchor. Having threaded our course by a passage called the Sasa Galley, through a numerous cluster of islands, all well cultivated to their summits, each vying in splendour of vegetation with its neighbour, we anchored for the night to the south of one of them, called the Shovel-nosed Shark, from its fancied resemblance to the form of that fish—the tide by this time having turned against us, and it otherwise not being considered prudent to continue on during the darkness; these unfrequented waters, so replete with danger, within the last 120 years not having yet been surveyed. On the following day about twelve, we came to, in a snug anchorage under the lee of the island we had wished to visit. We soon proceeded on shore, landing upon a well-built stone pier, from which a broad paved walk, in distance about two miles and a half, led us to the principal temple.

This island may with truth be styled the Mecca of the Chinese, since it is the constant resort of pilgrims from all parts of the em-

pire, and is devoted entirely to religious purposes; the priesthood, its sole inhabitants, supporting themselves by the contributions of pious devotees who flock to its numerous altars. It contains in all, large and small, four hundred temples, the whole of which are kept up by funds obtained in the way I have mentioned. Numbers of these gentry may be observed, redeeming the vows they have made during severe trials, sickness, or tempests, chin-chiming and supplicating the gigantic idol to Bhudd, with which every temple is plentifully supplied. The one we were now at was the most spacious, the most lofty, and by far the handsomest of them all, and, indeed, of any I have seen in the empire.

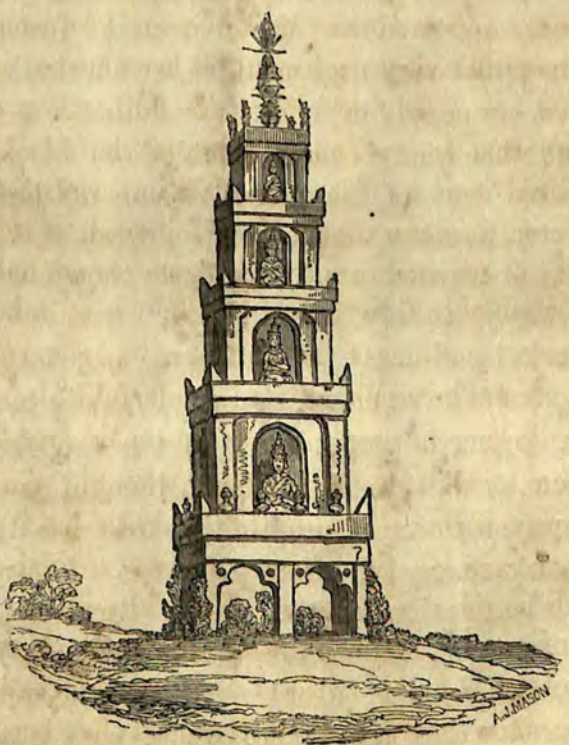
It was situated in a beautiful valley, surrounded by large umbrageous trees, which had the more pleasing effect, as large trees are by no means common in any portion of China which we had yet visited. Its structure was singularly picturesque, gaily ornamented, and covered with tiles after the peculiar Chinese fashion, the colour of the roof being imperial yellow, denoting it to be a royal edifice. These tiles

were originally brought from the Royal Palace at Nankin, subsequently to the invasion of the Chinese capital, by the Tartars, who seemed to have taken the greatest pleasure in committing every species of destruction wherever they went. It was dedicated to the peculiar protection of Ma-tsoo-poo, the queen of heaven, by others called Tien-how, or Shing-moo, this being reported to be the spot upon which she first rested, on her visit to the celestial empire. Just prior to our reaching the outer gateway, we observed a rather curious tomb, the characters upon which were evidently not Chinese. I took some little pains to copy it, as it struck me as singular to find even the remotest signs of foreign people or things,

which throughout the whole land we so very rarely met. On my return to Hong-Kong, many months subsequently, I made inquiries concerning what the writing was, but could never ascertain what the characters really were, and therefore leave it to my readers.

All the buildings were more or less in a state of dilapidation and decay; and it certainly appeared that Ma-tsoo-poo, the queen, was either very neglectful of her charge, or that her supply of funds were falling low—but this query I must leave to the black-haired sons of Han, or their imperial protector, to determine. It is, indeed, a sad pity to see such a universal proof as we had now done, throughout all the best and richest portions of the empire, of misgovernment and misapplication of funds, in neglecting to keep in proper order and repair any of their ancient public edifices; though, perhaps, on this account, the romantic beauty of the whole—the bridges, gateways, tombs, and temples, with their fantastically-painted roofs and pinnacles—was rendered more pleasing by the antique and venerable appearance they presented, than had they been

bedizened with gilding and decorations fresh from the hands of the artist. Immediately beyond a large piece of water, which was covered thickly with the lotus plant, there was a white marble tomb, where, probably, rest the ashes of some noble statesman or victorious general. We were unable to discover to whose memory it



was erected; but, poor man, I doubt not that, during his life, he had little notion that this monument would ever be subjected to the unholy gaze of the much-scorned Fanqui. It consisted of five stories, one smaller than the other; and on every face of each was a tablet representing the Queen Ma-tsoo, exactly similar in design to those we had seen in the interior of each apartment in the Porcelain Tower. Its top was also surmounted with a similar pear-shaped gilded cone.

In the course of our rambles, we visited many more of the temples; none of these were, however, to be compared, either in size or architecture, to the first; though all, I regret to say, shewing equal marks of neglect and decay. We observed some large sugar junks anchored in a small, sandy bay on the north-eastern angle of the isle, the crews of which had no doubt touched here for the purpose of propitiating the gods in their favour with sundry offerings. Before our occupation of the group, from time immemorial, numerous pirates made it a practice to hover about these waters, well knowing that they there would possess a

good chance of enriching themselves by the plunder of the devotees; unscrupulously easing them of their entire cargo, contributing therefore, without difficulty, an equal sum to the greedy priesthood. And although this was well known to be their constant haunt, by every trader on the coast, yet so scrupulous were they in the practice of their vows, that the dangers and difficulties they underwent, in their opinion, only enhanced the value of the pilgrimage they performed. Having spent two of the pleasantest days I had yet done in China, roaming about the secluded spots of this delightful island, the mind wanting some sort of respite after the constant exciting scenes, from which there had never been a cessation since our joining the expedition, we set sail on our return, and so, adapting the ebb and flow of the tide to suit us in our tortuous course through the island, we arrived in Chusan much prior to nightfall.

I had often heard of, and occasionally seen, some of the old people of both sexes with extraordinary long nails on their left hand; and I had procured a set of silver caps which are worn to defend the hand, lest any chance

blow should break or destroy them, thereby causing the care and trouble of years to vanish in an instant.

In a secluded hermitage at Po-too-ee, we found a man who probably had seen some eighty summers—a venerable-looking priest, his beard white as driven snow. Our attention was, however, immediately distracted from all other portions of his person to that of his left hand, the examination of which, so far from being opposed to his inclination, on the contrary, afforded him infinite pleasure and pride. To use a nautical phrase, we perceived "lashed" at the back of each finger a narrow slip of bamboo, as a means of defending the nail from any casual blow; indeed, without this, they could not have lasted, without breaking, even for a week. At our request, he carefully removed one or two of these splints; he said he had cherished these feline weapons he knew not how many years, and through dint of great care, during the whole time, without accident. It is needless to add, that this hand was totally useless to him. We had the curiosity to measure the longest, and found it to exceed eleven inches in length; they tapered considerably

towards the point, and at the extremities much resembled shrivelled quills.

I heard of an old man, at Amoy, who possessed a nail seventeen inches in length, but not having seen it myself, I cannot vouch for the fact; if so, it beats my Poo-to-ee friend by half a foot. This elegant habit, as you will readily believe, is confined solely to those whose manners of life are entirely free from manual exertion; but so common is the practice, that the very fact of not possessing what some would call these hideous talons, is here as sure a mark of a man being devoid of neatness, or rather, perhaps, I should say dandyism, as a splaw foot, a badly-cut coat, or a dirty glove would be at home.

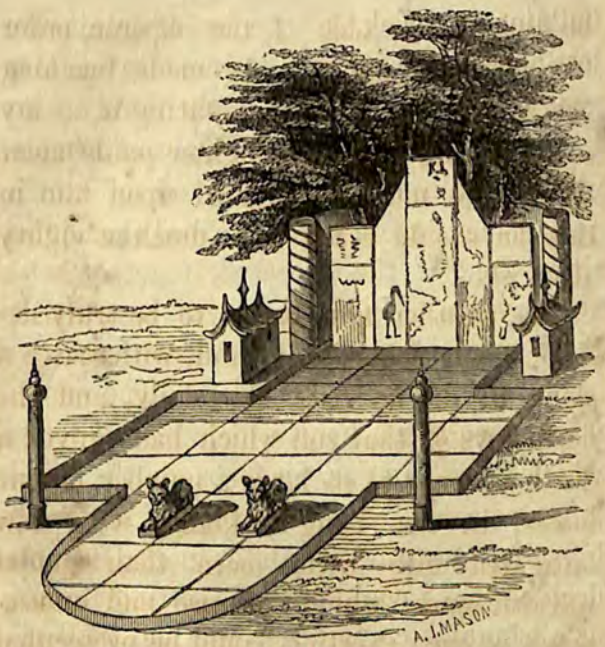
The reverence bestowed upon age is carried to a great length among all classes, the punishment of death itself being sometimes remitted, when the individual deemed worthy of it should have attained any extraordinary number of years. As an instance, I will here quote a portion of an edict from the emperor:—

"A priest of the Bhuddist sect has recently been murdered in Tartary, by a man said to

be eighty years old. I, the emperor, order the strictest inquiry to be made touching the age of the murderer, stating it, as my imperial will, that some lighter punishment than death must be inflicted upon him in case he should really be as much as eighty years old."

The weather now began to be truly delicious; a cool northerly wind, with scarce a cloud in the heavens, blew daily, and the fierce rays of that sun which had proved a death warrant to so large a number of our forces, in the Yang-tse-kiang, were now mitigated into little more than genial warmth, under which, exercise and amusement, or even exertion, could be prosecuted without inconvenience, and no longer could be looked upon as either laborious or detrimental to the health.

Many a long ramble through the beautiful valleys, and over the high ridges of Chusan, did I continually join in. A walk beyond the north gate of Tinghai was exceedingly romantic and pretty; one object which struck us as worthy of observation, was a tomb of some great man, which was placed about half-a-mile from the gateway, and

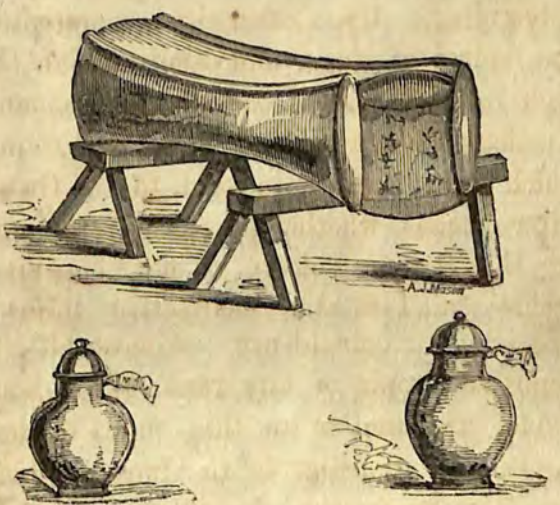


which, from its pleasing style and peculiarly Chinese character, I shall endeavour to describe. It consisted, in the first place, of a small paved oblong court, the entrance to which was defended by two strange-looking animals, meant to represent lions, carved in stone, each having a loose round ball in his mouth, a device which the Chinese continually adopt. Near to each lion was a high column; beyond this, a paved smaller court, on each side of which was a small

building of brick, a species of miniature joss-house, and meant to contain certain gods which were patrons of the family. At the back of the court were slabs of marble, placed against a large mound of earth; upon some of these were inscribed the names, titles, &c., of the deceased, together with holy sayings. Upon others were represented the figures of stags, and other animals, in high relief, very well carved. The mound was shaped like a horse-shoe, the wall round which being similar, in form, to the Greek letter omega—whether purposely representing that type of death or not, I cannot decide—but I could not help setting it down as a singular coincidence. Almost all the tombs of people of any rank, throughout China, are similar to this, more or less handsome, according to the money which they have bequeathed for this purpose, or the fancy of their friends.

No one thing, perhaps, is more striking than their mode of burial. Unlike other nations, no particular place is consecrated for a general rendezvous of the departed. In the provinces, bordering the Yang-tse-kiang, where the country is very flat, all

their dead bodies (to make use of an Irish bull) are buried above ground; generally a small portion of the surrounding land being left to lie waste. The corpses are placed in a large coffin, of a most peculiar size and shape, made commonly of camphor wood,



which is allowed to rest upon a pair of tressel legs, and not unfrequently thatched over, to guard it from the inclemency of the weather. I have known them frequently, at a distance, mistaken for a herd of cattle grazing on the plain; indeed, have myself taken them to be such. The body having

remained in this receptacle until it is completely decomposed, is then removed into an earthen jar with a cover. Immense numbers of potted Chinese may be seen all over the country, a small paper label being affixed to each, to denote the name of the deceased. No house of any note but has at least one coffin always ready, in some back room, and frequently another, in case the first should not be sufficient for the exigencies of the family; the remains, perchance, of one of its late members not being ready to be transferred to the pot, ere a second requires the coffin; thus, the same tenement which has served for the father, in course of time, if not too much decayed, becomes of service, in like manner, for the son. It is singular, that, when alive, not the smallest particle of anything valuable is allowed, by the Chinese, to be wasted, far less a single yard of ground; the greatest pains being evinced in this, by their encroachments into the very ocean, in raising long stone embankments to reclaim the land. But such is their reverence for the dead, that, in many instances, they scruple not to allow them to take up large and

valuable pieces of ground upon the surface of the richest soil; indeed, the quantity of land which, in driblets, is thus wasted, in a country that for miles is nothing less than a perfect garden, appears truly surprising to those who have not witnessed it, and particularly struck all of us on our way from Woo-sung to Shang-hae. Thus the dead, in this over-peopled country, scarcely give way for the living—an evil, far from diminishing, but daily increasing.

In the south of China, or where the country is very mountainous, small fertile valleys occasionally intersecting it, this evil is not the least felt, as the bodies of the deceased are carried by their friends and relatives to some secluded spot in the hills, occasionally indicated by themselves prior to their demise, and are there interred *underground.* They are, at a subsequent period, not unfrequently disentombed, and potted after the northern custom. Flowers and pretty shrubs are sown near the graves, which are constantly visited by their relatives, by whom, when their means will allow, a tomb is erected, either of brick or

stone, invariably in the form I have before mentioned—namely, the Greek omega.

Strange to say, the islanders of Chusan could not yet understand that a peace had been concluded with his imperial majesty; our return by some being construed into a defeat rather than a victory.

While we were lying there, an attempt at kidnapping occurred, which put us all upon our guard against the treachery of the inhabitants. Two officers, a naval and a military one, upon their return from a walk a few miles in the interior of the island, when not more than half a mile from the city gates, were attacked by some seven or eight ugly looking fellows, armed with agricultural implements, who suddenly sprang upon them. The naval officer fortunately eluded their clutches, and ran, with all speed, to alarm the guard, the wisest thing he could do, as, being unarmed, by remaining with his companion he could have rendered him no assistance against such a number of assailants. In the meantime, they succeeded in gagging the military one; seizing him by the legs, they dragged him, head downwards, for a considerable distance

along the ground, beating him and belabouring him all the while with a rake; by some means he contrived to free one of his hands, and seizing, while in this awkward position, a small pocket pistol, with which he was provided, he shot one of the number through the shoulder or arm, this, together with the knowledge that one of their intended victims had effected his escape, and that a speedy rescue was doubtless at hand, while a dreadful punishment was inevitable should they be captured, soon made them drop their burden, and take flight. Although every exertion was subsequently made to trace them out, it was without effect; this, however, is not so much to be wondered at, for however high a reward might be offered by us, yet the dread of future vengeance, when we should have retired, for giving evidence, would naturally deter them from doing so, however considerable the sum. Had any unlucky catastrophe happened to these officers, it would have created an extraordinary sensation at home, one being a nephew of the first man of the age, the other a son of the present V. C. of England. The perpetrators of some late act of kid-

napping had been punished in a summary way by the officer commanding in the island who hung them upon a large tree half-way between the landing-place and the city. This just, though to them novel and horrifying punishment, prevented a repetition of the offence for a considerable time, but it was supposed by many that the very attempt I have just related was undertaken, by way of revenge for this summary retribution, by some of the relatives of those who were put to death.

What struck me as singular, amongst a people who profess little or no religion, was an attempt, which they more than once made, to destroy a building, which was generally used by our troops as a place of worship, having actually succeeded on one occasion in blowing up the pulpit. Some extraordinary ideas regarding our religious ceremonies must have entered into their heads, to cause them to attempt to commit so strange an act, but it would be useless to comment upon the superstitious fancies of this strange race.

On Friday, the 21st, we received final orders to direct our way once more to the

southward. Both the naval and military commanders having received the full sanction of H. M.'s Plenipotentiary for breaking up the expedition as speedily as they could, lest the Chinese, always a suspicious people, from the known and universally acknowledged faithlessness of their disposition, should fancy, by our still keeping it together, that we were acting a treacherous part regarding them. I was very near losing my passage, from remaining in the town of Ting-hai longer than prudence dictated, and should certainly have done so, but for the kindness of the captain of H. M. S. Dido, who sent me off in his own gig. I know few things more provoking, than that of being late, either for a steamer or coach, in any part of Europe; how much worse, then, in this out-of-the-way place, without one rag of clothes besides those on one's person, and where no article could be found of such shape or form as habit and custom had rendered familiar to the wearer.

It was not without much regret, that I cast a last look upon the beautiful hills and valleys of Chusan, and the neighbouring mountains. The feeling being presented

pretty clearly to my view, that this would, in all probability, be the last time I should visit this lovely group, naturally made me regret a last farewell the more. The climate, as I before said, was now truly delicious, and I understood that it continued the same during this and the following month of November, blowing a fine breeze every day; the nights, without being cold, were refreshingly cool, neither did the musquitoes any longer pertinaciously disturb us in a comfortable night's rest, either by their poisonous and painful presence, or monotonous music.

CHAPTER XV.

War services concluded—Napoleon's opinion of a war with China—Superiority of the Chinese to the Egyptian—Trade of Russia with China—The Nehrbudda tragedy—Difficulties of the Chinese language—Their politeness and treachery—Religion—Form of oath.

My services of a belligerent nature were now concluded. They had not been very extensive; but, fortunately, we arrived at the very nick of time—at the moment when the character of the expedition underwent a complete change. The strength and might of the British arm being displayed, all opposition to its stroke was found worse than useless, thereby, in the sequel, greatly diminishing the horrors of a protracted war.

Should untoward and unlooked-for events again rouse the lion from his slumbers, and oblige him, however unwillingly, to display his mighty powers, the same result will, no doubt, be speedily accomplished. Being devoid, I am inclined to think, of a vast deal of the horrible tragedies it has been my province to mention in the recital of the foregoing scenes.

The inhabitants, I hope and trust, and, in my own mind, I am convinced, are now fully aware, that we are by no means the dreadful monsters which it suited the policy of the mandarins to paint us; and that although, when once that restraint, which order and the forms of society tend so greatly to keep in check, is removed, the fiery passions of man will sometimes break loose; yet the banner under which we fight by no means countenances these scenes of cruelty or distress. In short, it is to be hoped that that intercourse which must spring up, now that so many restrictions which formerly existed are removed, will eventually cause the dissemination of Christian principles throughout this benighted,

though rich, highly peopled, and industrious country.

I was much interested with a remark of Napoleon's made at St. Helena, and by the notes given upon it by the editor of "The Friend of China;" and as many of my readers have not seen that paper, and as these ideas regarding a future struggle with this stupendous nation are so consonant with my own, I will take the liberty of inserting it:—

"Napoleon replied,—'It would be the worst thing you have done for a number of years to go to war with an immense empire like China, and possessing so many resources. You would, doubtless, at first succeed, take what vessels they have, and destroy their trade and cities; but you would soon teach them their own strength. They would be compelled to adopt measures to defend themselves against you. They would consider, and say, We must try to make ourselves equal to this nation. Why should we suffer a people so far away to do as they please with us? We must build ships, we must put guns in them, we must render ourselves equal to them. They

would,' continued the Emperor, 'get artificers and ship-builders from France and America, and even London. They would build a fleet, and in the course of time defeat you.'

"The above apposite extract appeared in a London paper. It remains to be seen whether Napoleon's prediction will be verified. We know that the Chinese are building ships of European models for defensive objects; that they are constructing their forts on better principles; that they have foreigners (some two or three) in their pay, from whose instructions they hope to benefit in the practice of gunnery.

"The late struggle was too short, however, and the national humiliation too local, to engender the widely spread conviction among the Chinese of their inferiority in the warlike, or in any other arts, to the foreigners. Until their obstinate prepossessions and inveterate prejudices of national superiority and wisdom are uprooted, China cannot importantly progress.

"Experience tells us that very rarely has the pettiest rajah, or predatory chieftain, in British India been content with

the *first* drubbing he has received at our hands. Hence we deem another war with China sooner or later inevitable, in which case we shall, of course, be successful, but *then* we think the Chinese will be constrained thoroughly to feel and acknowledge their inferiority; and if so, their next defeat will, perhaps, be the precursor of their social advancement.

"Who dare prognosticate the result of this national awakening? Who can foresee the mighty changes which may ensue therefrom? In our own days we have seen what the will of one man can accomplish. We allude to the Pacha of Egypt, who, with a population not *one hundredth* of that of China, and with a revenue that would be easily extracted from a *single* province of the Celestial Empire, has yet managed to erect himself into a power courted by France and England, whom he very nearly involved in a war.

"Any one who has passed through Egypt, and who has, also for a short time, resided here, must be struck with the moral and physical superiority of the Chinese cooley to the Egyptian fellah. In endurance of

fatigue, cheerful obedience, tact, and courage, the Chinaman far surpasses any other Asiatic; and with European tactics and discipline, it is believed, would rival the Sepoy as a soldier.

"With no caste or prejudices, a supply only of rice and salt, would suffice to subsist the Chinese soldier. The magnificent water communications afford every facility for the transport of large bodies of troops to any given point.

"Should the successor of Taou Kwang be imbued with *Europeanism*, what is there he *cannot* do? The mind staggers at the contemplation. It is, perhaps, the destiny of despotic China in the east, and of democratic America in the west, to rid both continents of European domination. Were a Peter the Great, a Mehemet Ali, or even a Sultan Mahmoud, to spring up in China, might not Tartar hordes *again* desolate the valley of the Danube, and Europe tremble, not at the prospect of a Russian, but of a Chinese invasion? If this be dubious, is it not certain that all the boasted power of Russia would then but

suffice to preserve its Asiatic frontier of the Oural Mountains?"—Ed. F. C.

Should further differences at a future time take place, I am much inclined to think that war will be conducted more upon European principles; and I feel convinced that the heroes of 1842 were the last in a civilized country to have encountered an enemy armed with bows and arrows; and that a scheme so barbarous as was put in practice by way of destroying our troops—that of sending abandoned females amongst them, solely for the purpose of engendering diseases—will never again enter into the ideas of a people even possessing such fertile imaginations as those of our celestial brethren.

As so much interest seems to be taken in England relative to the trade between Russia and China, I will here quote a very clever paragraph which appeared some time ago in "The Times." I cannot, however, now help thinking that the Russians will carry on most of their intercourse with the Chinese for the articles which come either from the central or southern provinces of

the empire by means of shipping, which, prior to the late war, was utterly forbid to that nation, no Russian vessel being allowed to enter any port of China; for I fancy that there must be an immense expense attending the carriage of tea, silk, or any other article they receive, which has to be conveyed by so long a land carriage, the loads of thousands of horses or camels being easily stowed in one capacious vessel:—

"The recent extension of the trade of Russia with China, which has lately become such an object of interest, is well described in a work recently translated from the Russian of Dr. Pallas and M. Muller, and entitled the 'Conquest of Siberia.' In this there is a succinct account as well of the origin of the commerce in question as of the extent to which it is at present carried on. The commencement of all connexion between the Russians and Chinese seems to have been towards the middle of the seventeenth century, when the Russians, spreading eastward through the territory on each side of the river Amoor, and subduing several independent Tongusian hordes, which the Chinese also designed to conquer, the

two countries were brought into collision. Open hostilities broke out in 1690, terminating in a regular treaty, by which the progress of the Russian arms was checked, and the foundation of a commerce laid. This treaty was signed in 1689. The Russians lost by this the navigation of the Amoor, but obtained in return a permanent trade with the Chinese. Under it much difficulties arose, and it was not till 1728 that the treaty of Kiachta was signed, which is the basis of all transactions carried on between the two countries at the present time. In that treaty it was declared that a caravan might go to Pekin every three years, on condition that it should not contain more than 200 persons, and directly this caravan reached the frontier, notice was to be sent to the Chinese court, which would dispatch an officer to meet the caravan, and conduct the persons to Pekin. Kiachta and Tuenchaitu, both of which are situated on the confines of Siberia, were appointed as places of resort, where a trade to the subjects of both nations was allowed.

"The commerce, as it is now carried on, is entirely a trade of barter, the Russians

being prohibited to export their coin. The Chinese merchant comes first to Kiachta, and examines the merchandise he wants in the warehouse of the Russian trader, and when the price is settled the goods are sealed in the presence of the Chinese. Both parties repair to Maimiatchin, where the Russian chooses his commodities, and leaves behind a person in confidence, who remains in the warehouse till the Russian goods are delivered, when he returns with the Chinese merchant to Kiatchta.

"Furs and peltry are the most important articles of importation on the side of the Russians. Most of these come from Siberia and the newly discovered islands, but, as a sufficient supply is not thus obtained for the Kiachta market, foreign furs are sent to St. Petersburg, and are thence dispatched to the frontiers. Cloth, the coarser sort of which is manufactured in Russia, while the finer sort principally comes from England, Prussia, and France, is the second article of exportation. Camlets, calimancoes, druggets, white flannels, stuffs, velvets, coarse linen, Russia leather, tanned hides, glassware, hardware, tin, talc, cattle, sporting

dogs, provisions, and meal, are the remaining articles, though meal is less imported than formerly, from the Chinese having extended their agriculture. On the other hand, the Chinese supply the Russians with silk, both manufactured and raw, cotton, teas, porcelain, furniture, toys, artificial flowers, tiger and panther skins, rubies, colouring matters, canes, tobacco, rice, candies, rhubarb, and musk.

"Trade with China is found to be exceedingly profitable to Russia, as she is able to dispose of such furs as are of so little value that they would not pay the expense of carriage from the east of Siberia to European Russia, while the richer furs, which are sold very dear to China, would not find purchasers in Russia on account of their expensiveness. They are also able to obtain from China, in exchange for these articles, which would otherwise be unprofitable, many goods which they would be unable to purchase at an advantageous rate from the European powers. The gross amount of the average trade, including such articles as are smuggled, is estimated at 4,000,000 roubles: the calculation for the present year, in which

the contraband trade is omitted, giving 2,868,333 roubles."

Under the influence of a steady north-easter we reached Hong-Kong in about ten days, passing once more the lofty headland of Formosa and La Pedra Blanca. The island, at the time I now speak of, presented precisely the appearance which has been so ably represented in the panorama now exhibiting in Leicester Square; too much praise cannot be given to the talented individual by whom, in such a climate, the arduous task of making these extensive sketches was undertaken, or to the extraordinary degree of merit with which they have been rendered into one of the most popular panoramas ever exhibited in London.

Prior to the conclusion of the war, a most barbarous and cruel murder had taken place in the island of Formosa; almost the entire crew, as well as a large number of native Indian followers, who were proceeding in a vessel called the Nehrbudda, to join the head-quarters of the army, having been put to death. In point of barbarity, added to the large number of these unfortunate sufferers,

it was, on the whole, the most fearful circumstance which had occurred since the commencement of the war, and the account of it filled us all with horror and indignation. On board this ship were 274 souls; of these twenty-nine were European, two Manila men, and 243 natives of India. All the Europeans and the two Manila men left the ship, in boats, as soon as she struck; there were, therefore, exactly 243 natives left behind. These men remained by the ship, which had drifted over the reef, and was lying in smooth water in Kihing Bay for five days, and then landed on rafts, without arms or weapons of any kind. In landing, some were drowned in the surf, others killed by plunderers, who came down to strip them as they reached the shore; the rest were seized and imprisoned in small parties, where they were left in heavy irons, with hardly any clothing, and a very small allowance of food, from which privation, after great suffering, many died. Of the whole, who left the ship on rafts, only two men were eventually sent to Amoy.

It is, however, impossible to determine, out of these persons, how many were

drowned, how many killed by the plunderers, died natural deaths, perished from ill-treatment, or were beheaded by the Chinese authorities. The proclamation issued by Sir H. Pottinger, when these facts came to his knowledge, at the close of the war, did honour both to himself and the country which he represented; it regarded not only this vessel, but also a small brig, called "The Anne," which was wrecked in the month of March, 1842, on her return from Chusan:—

"Sir Henry Pottinger, Bart., H. B. M. Plenipotentiary in China, has, on his arrival at Amoy, learned with extreme horror and astonishment that many more than one hundred subjects of H. B. M., who were wrecked in the ships Nehrbudda, and brig Anne, on the coast of the island of Formosa, have been recently put to death by the Chinese authorities on that island, who allege that they perpetrated the cold-blooded act in obedience to the imperial commands. Had," he continues, "the unhappy people, who have suffered on this occasion, been prisoners of war, taken, whilst fighting, with arms in their hands, their massacre would

have been a most flagrant violation of the well-understood rules and feelings, which distinguish warfare among civilized nations, and contrast it with the sanguinary and inhuman practices and ideas of mere savages; but when H. M. Plenipotentiary calls to mind that the unfortunate individuals, upon whom this foul deed was committed, were inoffensive camp-followers, and seamen who neither were armed nor had any means of defending themselves, or molesting others, and were especially entitled, as distressed and shipwrecked men, even by the laws and usages of China, to kindness and protection; the Plenipotentiary has no language by which he can sufficiently proclaim the sentiments of abhorrence and detestation with which he views this lamentable affair—the recollection of which will remain a stain and disgrace in the annals of the Chinese empire."

He then calls upon the emperor not only to punish the offending party, but also to confiscate their property, to be applied to the benefit of the families of the poor people; and further adds—

"Without this just atonement, H. B. M. Plenipotentiary is not prepared to say that

the event which has occurred, and which it has become his duty to report to his own government, will not be a cause of *a further serious misunderstanding, leading to a renewal of hostilities between the two countries*, which would be deeply to be deplored. H. B. M. Plenipotentiary, however, trusts, that the emperor will, in his wisdom, see the justice, as well as policy, of making the retribution, which is herein pointed out, which is due both to England and to China, and which will avert further calamity."

This language, it will be allowed, was very strong, but not a whit more so than the occasion demanded, contrasting, as Sir Henry did, the atrocious conduct of the Chinese authorities, who, it appeared, had drawn from the emperor his consent to the execution, by representing the men as having gone to the island with hostile intentions—an assertion not more lying and false, as Sir H. Pottinger observed, than manifestly absurd, since neither of the ships were vessels of war, or armed.

With the utmost possible dispatch, a handsome letter arrived from the emperor,

agreeing in full with H. B. M. Plenipotentiary's demands, and stating that his imperial majesty regarded alike all outside or inside subjects; and that due consideration should in future be shewn to all of us. This instantly called forth a reply, to shew that we by no means considered ourselves his subjects, outside or inside, the letter concluding with this remarkable sentence—"that H. B. M. owned no superior but God." This was given to the interpreters to transcribe into Chinese; after long consideration, they all declared that such was the imperfection of the Chinese language that the only way in which they could translate the sentence, was by placing the word "emperor" in Chinese for the word "God," thus rendering the sense precisely and diametrically opposed to what was intended. Eventually, they found themselves obliged to make use of the expression the "Emperor's Father"—paternal respect being carried so far that this is the best expression they could adopt, which would, in any way, serve to explain their meaning. This will, moreover, shew the immense difficulties which had to be overcome in all diplomatic transactions with

this extraordinary nation, and what caution was necessary in all our communications with them.

The difficulties to be overcome in the Chinese language, unless to a man with indomitable spirit and determination, are most appalling. One military officer with the most praiseworthy assiduity conquered them, in a great measure, in a comparatively short time; he, however, did not scruple to confine himself to his desk for twelve and fourteen hours every day, for many weeks consecutively, and finally, just at the moment he was commencing to reap some benefit from the fruit of his labours, he was struck down with a severe fever, principally brought on by his unremitting exertions in that climate, and he was obliged immediately to return to Europe. The Chinese language, possessing no letters whereby words may be formed to express a meaning, is more, if I may use the expression, a string of connected symbols, or a link of woodcuts. Thus no book delights the Chinese more than the Penny Magazine, particularly if it be explained to them—its symbolic character appealing directly to their feelings. The

idea of translating this work once struck a learned European, intending to prefix thereto our woodcuts; and, no doubt, were it accomplished it would be the source of much benefit. But so much difficulty was experienced in arranging a type, where no letters exist, and where every *word* would have required to have been a woodcut, and so many words which, not existing, must consequently have been invented to express the foreign ideas which would be brought forward, that it was relinquished in despair. Perhaps, at some future period, as their language becomes better known, this idea may be revived, when it may be carried into execution with less difficulty than at present exists.

Although in point of good breeding, or even elegance of manner, no nation can surpass the Chinese, yet in respect to the feelings of right and wrong they very closely resemble the ancient Spartans. Laws exist forbidding crimes of various descriptions, theft, &c., which laws, should they be broken, and the culprit be discovered, punishment according to the offence will surely be inflicted. No moral turpitude,

however, is, in the opinion of any of them, attached to their misdeeds, the sole discredit of the action seems to lie in the discovery—either in the want of cleverness in its execution, or in the want of confidence which it will inspire in the future dealings of others with the same party. In fact the crime is altogether against man, not against God.

Indeed, it is requisite to keep a sharp look-out even upon the actions of the very highest officers of the state, or upon those with whom, by constant intercourse upon the most friendly footing, a degree of confidence is very naturally engendered. On the last occasion of the payment of the Chinese ransom, an endeavour was made in Canton to change the weights, substituting a new scale for the old Company's measures, and which, but for the firmness of our treasurer, would assuredly have been carried into effect. But little doubt exists, had it succeeded, the Emperor Towhang would not have been the gainer, however large the sum his respectable commissioners might have pocketed.

Religion, amongst the Chinese, bears a very different signification from what it does amongst ourselves, being, in a measure,

summed up under the following distinctive creed. It is a fear of evil spirits—not love and adoration for a good one. Thus each praiseworthy action of their lives is not prompted by a knowledge of how pleasing every holy thought and work is to an all-benignant Being, constantly taking a supervision of our actions, but by the fear of an evil spirit, who is never-ceasing in his endeavours to catch them tripping, upon which he is sure to repay them for their evil deeds. The very priests and guardians of their gods themselves, are not, as in most other countries, considered the first in the community, but in China are held to be the lowest and most degraded, kept only in the light of servants, constantly labouring at the altars of their gods, in formal processions, and burning of incense, to divert these monsters from inflicting upon those who sufficiently repay them for their trouble, the pains and penalties which they are taught to believe any dereliction of these ceremonies would surely entail upon them or their household. It is curious to observe what a striking similarity there exists in some of their forms and ceremonies to those

of the Roman-catholic church. Indeed, one of the greatest difficulties experienced by the early missionaries was this very circumstance; as their ceremonies were, to all appearance, so similar as to cause a belief among this benighted race that it was one and the same religion which the good padres were preaching and endeavouring to instil among them. They have no hesitation in adding any number of saints to their calendar, Commissioner Lin having been placed in effigy in many of their temples, prior even to his death.

The mode of administering an oath in the court of justice is far too extraordinary to be omitted to be mentioned. The Chinese, upon being placed at the bar, are not sworn to tell the truth, either by reverence or fear of their gods, but by the formality of cutting a cock's head off. Thus, upon any doubt being had in regard to what they state, they are instantly tested by this, to them, the severest of all trials, and which I was assured they would, on no account, undertake, provided they were not thoroughly certain that what they were then stating was the fact—their asseverations of the

truth of their statements being couched in the following terms—"I hereby swear I am ready to cut the cock's head off to the truth of what I now say." This is the form of a Chinaman's oath now used in the courts of justice at Hong-Kong.

CHAPTER XVI.

Grand Bouquet—Effects of intemperance—Four-in-hand —Peeping Tom and Molly Maloney of the Royal Irish — Practice of infanticide — Grounding of the Phlegethon—Foo-chow—Mr. Davis's work on China.

THE easy and graceful way in which the high commissioners adopted many of our habits, although so foreign to their own, proves them to be a highly civilized body. At the grand dinner given by H. B. M. Plenipotentiary, Keying sat on his left, that being in China the place of honour, with poor Mr. Robert Morrison next, to interpret; Haling, the Tartar general, on his right, with Mr. Thom to interpret; and the high-born gentlemanly Whang, a Chinese, (the two former being Tartars,) immediately opposite.

The first course being removed, Keying stood up, and after a toast, which was of course done honour to on all sides, he sang a Tartar song, in which he gave his lungs their full play; he then drained his own, Sir H. Pottinger's, and Morrison's glasses to the dregs—the one wine and the other beer; this was intended as a high compliment.

Soon after the cloth was removed, toasts and songs became general, no one being sufficiently ill-bred to refuse when called upon to sing, and as at each a bumper was drained, the imperial commissioners soon began to find that they had enough; they, however, finished the evening by an Italian game, called Mora, very common among the Tartars; and as Keying was less expert than the other two, he was obliged to drink many a bumper, this being the penalty; but as they could not do less than follow the example of their royal chief, they drank each one also. This, you may imagine, did not serve to make them more sober.

On the following morning, I accompanied them round Hong-Kong, or as Whang called it, Little Britain, in a steam-vessel. All three were stretched at full length on

the deck nearly the whole time, vomiting most freely; Whang, perhaps from being the youngest, suffered least, but the other two paid severely for the evening's amusement.

What seemed to delight them the most was driving through the town in a small Manila carriage, with four ponies and postilions, never having seen such a vehicle in their lives before; having posted the entire distance from Pekin, nearly one thousand miles, in sedan chairs, that being the speediest, and, indeed, with the exception of going by water or riding *à la Tartar*, the only means of conveyance resorted to in the country.

They differed very much in one respect from most Easterns, who generally fancy it is undignified to shew marks of surprise at anything, however much in reality it may excite their curiosity. The Chinese commissioners, on the contrary, took the greatest pleasure in inspecting all things, with which they were not themselves well acquainted, most minutely; being particularly struck with the rapidity with which our artillery-

men could load and fire, dismember and replace their guns. They went so far, upon one occasion, as to inspect my own wardrobe, when Chief Secretary Whang could not contain his surprise at my possessing six pairs of boots.

No higher proof, perhaps, may be adduced of the high state of civilization to which they have arrived, than that the military profession, so far from being considered the most honourable, is, with the exception of their priesthood, considered the lowest: the first station in society being given to men of letters, the second to merchants, and the last to the paid military defenders of their country.

Upon the conclusion of the war, the most friendly feelings were evinced by the Chinese of all classes, as I have often mentioned, towards us, and in no place were they more so than at Amoy. English pony-races and other sports got up by the officers of the garrison, were duly attended by the mandarins, and interchanges of complimentary visits were constantly made between both parties. Upon one occasion, a party of

young Chinese gentlemen were inspecting the military barracks of the Royal Irish. Of a sudden, the harmony of their visit was interrupted by the cries and screams of one of their number, who was seen flying across the barrack-yard, loudly calling for help, pursued by no less fearful a personage than a certain Meg O'Flanigan, terribly *en deshabille*—a second Molly Maloney—with an immense broomstick, and by no means contenting herself with the demonstration alone of this ugly weapon, she was applying it with extreme vigour, and screaming at the height of her voice—"I'll teach the long-tailed black-*ga-ard* to spy upon the Irish girls." It appeared that, prompted by a vain curiosity to view more narrowly a Fanqui-fo, (a foreign devil-wife,) he had been sufficiently rash to peep through the aperture of a half-closed door, where the said Mrs. O'Flanigan was in the act of performing her toilet, when, much to her surprise, she perceived a reflection in the glass, of a long-tailed gentleman looking over her shoulder. The sequel is readily understood: to use her own expression—"'Faith, I made the long-tailed blackguard get out of that."

"No wonder," said the affrighted mandarin, on recovering himself a little, "that the men are such devils, when they are begotten by such she-dragons."

There are few nations who are generally so particular, and, indeed, cleanly, in their dress, as the Chinese; any one of them possessing a pretension of being above the common herd, feels it requisite to have a large wardrobe of coats and cloaks—satin, silk, and cloth—their shape and make differ but. little from those of their poorer brethren, but the texture varies according to their wealth and fancy. The poorer class have a singular habit of hiding one or both arms, in cold weather, within their upper coat, so that strangers have often fancied that most of those they saw before them, had either been wounded in the various skirmishes with us, or were wretched mendicants. No sooner, however, does he offer them any work, than a due proportion of members are quickly thrust out—not only to undertake, but to receive the reward when accomplished.

Chinese politeness and due observance of etiquette, as has often been observed, is

carried to the highest degree of refinement—age and station receiving marked attention at the hands of youth and those of an inferior grade. Respect for the departed is carried in some things to an absurd length—it being customary for the living, upon hearing the news of the decease of a relative or friend, to call at his residence, prior to his funeral, and leave a card upon him. In this instance, it is etiquette for the colour of the card to be white, that being the colour of mourning. Upon occasions of a complimentary ceremony, sometimes the name alone is written upon a slip of *red* paper, without any honorary distinctions attached: at other times, the honorary distinctions only are used. Upon the death of the high commissioner (Elipoo) at Canton, his excellency H.B.M. Plenipotentiary sent his card, which compliment was duly acknowledged by the friends of the deceased.

In some of the minutest particulars, as well as graver ones, the sons of Han differ widely from ourselves; for instance, if you ask a country lout, in the midland counties of England, any query to which he cannot instantly reply, he endeavours to search it

out of his brain, by scratching his head, so surely does the Chinaman collect his thoughts by an equally assiduous rubbing and scratching the opposite end of his person.

Although slavery is by no means permitted in the Chinese dominions, yet the selling of children by their parents is a matter of every-day occurrence in China, and, on the whole, is perhaps of advantage, tending to diminish the crime of infanticide, which is carried on in some parts of the empire to a fearful extent. In Macao, itself, the native portion of the inhabitants being altogether under their own laws, this cannot be put a stop to. I have frequently seen the young children on their way to those who have purchased them, gaily dressed out as for some ceremony. These, I am sorry to add, are too often sold for that which should make a mother shudder, but which is in this country looked upon as a purely mercantile transaction, and as by no means entailing dishonour upon any parties concerned. I have known frequent instances of European foreigners becoming the purchasers, generally from motives of philanthropy, to save the poor infants from an untimely death,

and their parents from so unnatural a crime as infanticide, but against which, I believe, no statute law exists. An instance occurred where a worthy missionary, well known by every one in the expedition, purchased an infant, which after a residence of some days in his family, turned out so determinately addicted to crying, that he made an arrangement to return her to her friends. Rumours of this came to the ears of some of the English residents at Macao—a report being spread about that the worthy gentleman was dealing in slaves. It, indeed, eventually caused him no little trouble and anxiety to clear himself from this imputation, and for the future sickened him altogether of entering into those philanthropic speculations.

There is no coin of higher value made in China than copper cash. This is a small round piece of money, somewhat resembling our farthings, though much thinner; it is cast with a hole in the centre, which enables the possessor to string many together, and tends considerably to the facility of carrying them. The silver which is used in the

country generally is in large lumps, varying in value from seven or eight dollars to seventy or eighty; this is called sycee. It is very pure, frequently containing a considerable portion of gold. In the towns where much communication has taken place with foreigners, Spanish and other dollars are sometimes used. The Chinese are, however, very cautious how they receive them; indeed, even at Canton we have not yet been able to persuade them, that either Mexican dollars or Company's rupees contain an equal proportion of pure silver with the Pillar dollar of old Spain, although they respectively contain even more.

Much as I could have wished to have done so, I had no opportunity of visiting the port of Foo-chou-foo; and singularly enough, even his excellency Sir Henry Pottinger was unable to do so on his return south, after the conclusion of the war. The weather being very heavy, and the shoals so little known, it was reckoned dangerous for him to go into the mouth of the river. From an accident which occurred to the Phlegethon, even the admiral was prevented

from paying this port a visit. At all times during the expedition, from the small previous knowledge of the coasts, the vessels of every class were liable to be placed in situations of extreme danger and difficulty, none more so than the small steamers, whom, from the power they possessed in extricating themselves from these difficulties, were always the first to be sent into them, frequently running into shallow and unknown places in high tides, where they would be left dry at low water. A curious instance of this occurred to the Hon. Company's steam-ship Phlegethon, near the entrance of the Foo-chow-foo river, the rise and fall of tide here being nearly twenty feet; on getting to what she conceived a snug position, she dropped anchor in about five or six fathoms, not long after which she swung round at the ebb of the tide, a heavy swell setting in at the time; soon after, to the consternation of all on board, they heard her strike heavily astern. The captain's steward, upon running down, found the after-cabin fast filling with water; with the greatest presence of mind, he shut the door to, and kept it so until the iron moveable division could be screwed in, which

did not take very long. This was a second instance where one of these small steamers must have gone down, and all hands probably have perished, but from their being built in partitions. She was obliged to remain with this large hole in her bottom, the water flowing freely in and out, until she could be got ashore and repaired. The pay for the crew for some months happened to be stowed, in specie, in this compartment, the captain therefore was the more anxious about it, as, however unpleasant it might be to have all his own uniforms, books, and papers destroyed, he did not wish to tell the accountant-general at Calcutta, that the pay of the men had found its way out at the bottom of his ship. Fortunately, when she was high and dry, the chest of dollars was found safe, but two or three dozen cases of his own claret had tumbled out of the aperture, which, upon being measured, was found to be no less than twelve feet long by eight broad.

But for this accident occurring, the admiral had intended to have visited Foo-chow-foo himself. Having now no small steamer at his immediate command, he relinquished

the idea, dispatching a letter to the authorities by an officer of the Phlegethon, who writes—

"They went up in a cutter, and arrived at the city on the evening of the 7th instant, remained there all the 8th, and left on the 9th. Nothing could be more friendly than the reception which they had from the authorities and population, whose curiosity was much excited by their arrival. Even the crew, we are told, are loud in praise of the Foo-chow treatment. The well-cooked viands and good things provided for the bearers of the admiral's letter, were no bad evidence of a sincere feeling of hospitality.

"On the passage up, they were hailed by a junk, the bearer of invitation cards from the admiral of the station they were then passing, who wished them to land and partake of a feast. Desirous of proceeding, without delay, to the city, the invitation was respectfully declined.

"We are informed that Foo-chow appears a bustling, thriving place, of considerable commerce; but the excessive curiosity of

the natives was a grievous impediment to any attempts at exploration or even locomotion.

"Nothing was apparent on the part of the populace, but an eager yet respectful curiosity; and there was not evinced the slightest aversion to the foreigner who had coerced the emperor into a peace, and whom they then saw for the first time.

"We hear the river is not dangerous, or at least its rocks and dangers can be easily avoided, when it is accurately surveyed.

"The famed bridge mentioned by Du Halde, as we expected, did not excite any surprise in the minds of European beholders. It is not arched, but erected on a series of granite pillars across the river, at the point where there is an island. There are thirty-six openings, or rather waterways, on one side, and nine on the other.

"The Phlegethon struck on a hidden rock, about a mile and a half from the shore, and but for the water-tight partitions must have been lost. She will soon, we believe, proceed to Calcutta, where she will undergo a thorough repair."

Thus far I have described a few of the scenes which fell under my own observation, and have also endeavoured to illustrate, in some measure, the character of this singular people. The latter, however, I am very diffident about; for although this vast country, teeming with wealth, and in such a high state of civilization, is comparatively but little known to Europe, and, until very lately, scarcely talked about, yet there exists one work—"The Chinese," by J. F. Davis, Esq., our present plenipotentiary in China—so eminently superior to every other that has ever been written on the country, embracing at the same time everything upon which it is possible to give any information regarding it, and thereby placing all others so far in the back-ground; that however slightly an author may touch upon the same subjects with himself, he may be condemned, on the one hand, as a copyist, or, on the other, for his description being so infinitely inferior to that of the above talented gentleman. Nor can this be so thoroughly understood by any who have not had some insight into the country,—a perspicuity of

thought, and a grandeur of description, pervading the entire work. Indeed, I have often heard the remark made, "Who can write a book upon China after reading Mr. Davis's 'Chinese?'" In short, in less writing more is said than in almost any book in print.

CHAPTER XVII.

Hong-Kong—Description of the island—Typhoons—Recent improvements—Opium smuggling—Climate—Mortality—Piracy and murder—Matrimonial speculations—Market prices of young ladies—Portrait painter—English artist at Canton—Bogue forts—Whampoa—Smuggling—The wooden collar.

I WILL now say a few words about Hong-Kong, that portion of the Chinese empire which has been lately annexed to the already enormous possessions of her Britannic Majesty, called, by the facetious Whang, secretary to the Chinese high commissioner, Keying, Little Britain. Plenipotentiaries and commanders of armies, at the cessation of hostilities, when they have been victorious, have been blamed very frequently

for adding and annexing too great territorial possessions, thereby causing vast obligations on the parent country to foster and protect them, not unfrequently finding them rather an incumbrance than an advantage. So determined was our government to prevent such a sequel to the Chinese campaign, and so afraid were they lest territorial aggrandizement should, in any way, stay the happy termination of hostilities, that strict injunctions were, I believe, given, upon no account to allow even the retention of this small island to defeat the objects then in view—a peaceful though honourable sequel to that which was considered, throughout Europe, by no means a very popular war. In this instance, therefore, the British flag cannot be blamed for outstepping the bounds of moderation; having, at one time, had the whole of central and southern China within her grasp, she contented herself with one little island, securing the right of trade only with the other portions of the empire through the five ports—Canton, Amoy, Foo-chou-fpo, Ning-po, and Shang-hae, the first of these being the only one open to foreign

trade prior to the war. Hong-Kong was ceded to the British, in a treaty at the mouth of the Pieho river, with the then minister Keshen. Upon the understanding that all our differences should he amicably arranged at Canton, we evacuated the island of Chusan, which was then in our possession, having been captured some months previously. It is needless to repeat how faithlessly all these treaties were carried out, or to speak again of the punishment which fell upon the Celestials, in consequence; the successive captures, in the first place, of the Bogue forts, and Canton itself, and subsequently, of the numerous cities which fell before our victorious arms in the Fo-kien provinces, as well as in Central China; and the consequent destruction of life and property which ensued.

At the final treaty of Nankin, in August, 1842, it was arranged, that although we were to retain possession of Amoy, Chusan, and Hong-Kong, yet that the two former places were to be again ceded to the Chinese, when the last instalment of the money which they agreed to pay for the expenses of the war had been handed over to the British

authorities; and also, that the remaining articles of that famous treaty were either carried out, or in a satisfactory way of being so. Up to the present moment, the Chinese government have shewn as great a desire to act honourably with us, as they were formerly faithless, and having no doubt that, even prior to the time agreed upon, all these arrangements will be as duly executed on their part as upon our own, we may calculate that Hong-Kong is the only portion of the Chinese empire which may be properly called British territory. As I before said, the island is small; but, moreover, unfortunately, it is very mountainous, rendering thereby sites for buildings exceedingly difficult to obtain. It is about twelve miles long, and, on the average, four broad —an entire range of hills running from one end to the other, their sides precipitately falling into the sea. The harbour is one of the best in the world, containing sufficient anchorage ground for all the fleets in the universe, with a depth of water averaging from seven to ten fathoms. This is naturally the cause why Hong-Kong was chosen as the most appropriate spot for the

greatest maritime nation in the world, and a dwelling-place for her most adventurous of children. It is true that it is sometimes visited by typhoons, which have occasionally raged with frightful fury; but, in *most* instances where damage has occurred, some blame or carelessness may be attributed to those whose business it was to look after their craft, the barometer invariably indicating any very great change; and if common prudence and precaution are used in choosing a good berth in the summer season, for anchoring the ship, there is but small chance of any serious damage accruing to her from those mighty tempests. In the winter there is no dread, as during that portion of the year, although fearful gales frequently arise from the northward, such a thing as a typhoon at that season is never experienced. No typhoon occurred in this harbour during my stay in China, therefore I cannot speak as an eye-witness to their fury, but no instance, I believe, can be adduced, where due care and seamanship has been exercised, of any ship coming into trouble, since we have had possession of the place, from this cause.

The town itself is long and straggling, from the nature of the ground upon which it is built—a strip of land at the base of the hills; and from the circumstance of their rising so immediately behind it, screening it during the summer from the prevailing winds, the south-west, they cause it to be very hot, not allowing a breath of air to circulate freely through the streets. It would be difficult to state its limits, as it is daily increasing in a most surprising manner; what, on my first arrival, was scarcely more than a crowd of bamboo huts, has now become a substantially built town; and when the natural difficulties and obstacles of the soil are taken into consideration, this is the more astonishing; vast masses of rock having been removed, handsome houses of stone now line the sea-shore almost the entire length of the town. Government house stands on a portion of ground which here may be called a flat, though in almost any other part of the globe it would not be entitled to that denomination. This is by no means a good house, but now that the retention of the island admits of no doubt, both a new government house and a new

church will, as a matter of course, be erected. The buildings, which cannot fail to attract the attention of the most casual observer, as being far more magnificent, as well as better situated than any others, are the store-houses, or here called "go-downs," of Messrs. Mattheson and Jardine, the merchant princes of the far East; they lie eastward of the town, and are of immense extent. Immediately above them are two handsome bungalows, or summer residences, belonging to the same proprietors. Many private dwellings have been commenced, somewhat more removed from the sea, in this neighbourhood, in a valley called by the Chinese, Wang-ni-chong, or the "Valley of the Winding Shore;" most of them have as yet proved very unhealthy, and in consequence been little inhabited. This I believe to be chiefly owing to two causes, their secluded position—being almost shut out either from the sea or land breezes, and partly by reason of the paddy cultivation which still exists in the valleys in their vicinity, and secondly from the neighbouring hills being encumbered with shrubs and tangled woods, miasma from the paddy-

fields and decayed vegetation being extremely prejudicial to health. A large barrack has been erected on the southern side of the island, near to Chech-Chu, which town formerly was distinguished as the capital of the island—that from experience being found by far the healthiest situation, more exposed to the refreshing sea-breezes during the summer, or south-west monsoon, in consequence of the lofty range of hills before mentioned as running from east to west—the entire length of the island, the inhabitants of Quan-ti-lu, now called Victoria, are almost entirely debarred from enjoying this breeze. These barracks are not yet completed, but will eventually be capable of containing at least 1000 men comfortably. Spacious buildings for the officers have already been finished. A small barrack has also been built at Sy-wan, on the north-east of Hong-Kong, which will contain about 100 men. This is by far the prettiest part of the island, although it has as yet been unhealthy; but I am inclined to think it was there owing, as well as elsewhere, more to the want of good and sufficient accommodation than any other cause. These

are the only places, removed from the town, in which European buildings have been as yet erected, with the exception, indeed, of a small house at the summit of the range of hills, overlooking almost every portion of the island, called Black Mount, the immensely elevated position that it holds rendering it a pleasant retreat during the hot weather, more especially to invalids, a cool and refreshing breeze invariably existing there.

There are many native villages—I should think no less than forty in all: some of these are, however, very small, containing but two or three houses in each, while others, such, for example, as Chech-pi-wan, have a very respectable appearance. This last is beautifully situated, in a romantic and land-locked deep harbour, towards the south, and contains about 200 houses; on a small island, facing this town, is a joss-house, which spot is the frequent rendezvous of picnic parties from Victoria. The temple contains various relics—among which, and by no means the least singular, is a species of incense vase, supported by two figures, dressed precisely in the costume of Euro-

peans of the seventeenth century. I could never ascertain its history—the only answer to my inquiries being—"too muchy old oh"—the received Canton phraseology for its being an antique. Near this town is another, called Little Hong-Kong—a row of about twelve houses. Here is one European bungalow, or pic-nic house, the property of various subscribers, instituted under the auspices of the generous and patriotic chief magistrate, where, in whose much esteemed society, I have spent many pleasant hours; immediately above, is a considerable wood, in which may be found deer, pheasants, partridges, &c., though I am bound to believe it is not over abundantly stocked. Towards the extreme eastern end of the island is a plain of land—the only one, indeed, which may be called by that name; here a body of about two or three thousand men could, with management, be encamped. Near to this is a pleasantly situated village called Shuck-aw-wan, or the Bay of Rocks. At this spot a noted band of pirates were completely destroyed by the exertions of Capt. R——, of H.M.'s 98th, assisted by Lieut. G——, shortly after the return of

the army from the North, many of them being killed, the rest being taken prisoners were delivered over to the Chinese, by whom, no doubt, they were speedily put to death.

I will here relate a singular anecdote, which I heard of the leader of this band, who was accused of being the principal in a horrid crime during the early portion of the war. Some months after the destruction of the opium by Commissioner Lin, plenty more of this drug had arrived in the outer waters; most bloody encounters were daily taking place between the smugglers and the coast-guard. The difficulties and dangers which were placed by the Chinese authorities in the way of obtaining it, together with the immense price to which, in consequence, it had obtained, caused its sale to be undertaken only by the most lawless as well as avaricious of the community, who risked their lives in this pursuit. The cruelties resorted to by the mandarins in its suppression, and by the smugglers in retaliation, are almost incredible. As an instance, I will quote a circumstance which was related to me by a gentleman who was in the

fleet, and who subsequently became a resident at Hong-Kong. He stated, that it was discovered by some of the chief smugglers that spies were amongst the shipping, who had come principally with the intention of taking notes of the proceedings of the smugglers, in order that at some future opportunity they might be subjected to the imperial justice; and that they were living in small boats, under pretence of selling fruit and vegetables to the fleet.

These unfortunate individuals had almost completed their notes and inquiries; indeed, their intention was to have returned on the morrow, when some trivial circumstance led to the discovery of their real character, which spread such consternation among those who had committed themselves in the eyes of the government, that they determined to inflict upon them a punishment, at once so summary and horrible, as would effectually deter all others from following their example. They were taken to a neighbouring bay, just out of sight of the shipping, and were so fastened in their boats, that escape was impossible, fire being then applied, every individual one was burnt to death. Thus

a most horrible and tragic end befel those who would, had their observations reached the ears of the mandarins, have brought down an equally condign, though less painful, end to many of their fellow-men. As an excuse to their countrymen for this proceeding, their leader declared they had been instructed to do it by the Fanqui, or, in other words, English, and that even that punishment was light, compared with what might in future be expected by any one who dared to come upon the same errand.

This horrible proceeding, when it came to the ears of the English in the fleet, (only a small portion of whom ever became acquainted with it,) called down the severest reproaches upon those who were the supposed instigators, but no law or jurisprudence, of any kind existing, they, of course, escaped free.

The instigator of this horrid tragedy was the very man, by name Loong-Ur, who was taken prisoner by Capt. R., and who, I afterwards understood, was subjected to the most cruel punishment, prior to his being put to death, by the Chinese authorities.

Narrow footpaths lead, in almost every

direction, across the island, some of which have been already, and some, no doubt, soon will be, converted into roads sufficiently good for horses or sedan-chairs; but it will be long ere more than a few miles will be rendered available for wheel-carriages of any description, which can now only be used in the immediate vicinity of the town, from west to east point, or a very short distance up the Happy Valley.

The climate of Hong-Kong, for nine months of the year, is hot and oppressive, during which time exposure to the sun is exceedingly dangerous. The want of substantial buildings, libraries, billiard-rooms, or other places of resort, render a residence there, to a person who has not constant employment, an extremely monotonous existence. This will, of course, gradually mend; wealth and enterprise are flocking to the island, and those who follow will hardly imagine the inconveniences which the early settler had to encounter. In the winter, for three months the climate is very pleasant; indeed, sufficiently cold to enjoy the comforts of a good pea-coat, either riding or on the water. This, therefore, is the season gene-

rally looked forward to with anxiety by all; but the amusements, which liberty might give to a military man, are then sadly encroached upon, by preparations for general inspections.

Numerous were the intimate friends and companions who were cut off, during the sickness and mortality which occurred in the summer of 1843 at Hong-Kong; scarcely a house that was not visited by death, none in which sickness was unknown. Even among the Chinese population the mortality was nearly equal to that amongst the European community. I am, however, bound to add, that that year was considered a peculiarly unfavourable one—it being a fact pretty well established, that a year free from typhoons is more unhealthy than that in which these tempests occur. By the force with which they blow they drive away the pernicious vapour which encumbers the air, renovating the body, and enabling it better to withstand the trials of the climate. Amongst the soldiers, marines, and sailors, the deaths were still more appalling, more especially at the naval store, and an adjoin-

ing barrack, which, from its established unhealthiness, was abandoned.

I knew of one body of men, in number about seventy-two or seventy-three, who, arriving from home in the spring of the year, inhabited this building; by the time of our departure from the island, about nine or ten months subsequently, either fifty-six or fifty-seven were actually in their graves, although they had been removed on board ship, and every attention that medical science or a liberal government could devise, had been freely placed at their disposal. The regiment which we accompanied from England, and had then been from eighteen to twenty months in China, and which on its arrival numbered about 650 men, was reduced to considerably less than 300. It is therefore sincerely to be hoped, that this state of things will not continue.

Most new settlements are generally very expensive to their first inhabitants. In this respect, Hong-Kong is by no means behind any that I have heard of. The rent of a house of four rooms, one story high, and with a common tiled-roof, is there constantly

known to be sixty or seventy dollars *per month*, about 12*l.* English; and the price of anything like luxuries equally high. As the best sample I can give of the price of butcher's meat, I will here insert a paragraph from the Hong-Kong Gazette; the value of a dollar may be generally estimated in China at about 4*s.* 6*d.* English:

"Notice.—The gentry of Hong-Kong, and the public generally, can be furnished with fine English mutton, [at one-half dollar per pound,] by sending their orders to 'The Briton's Boast,' on Saturday mornings."

Great difficulty has been experienced in putting down the robbers, a band of whom infest the island and coast. Too much praise cannot be awarded to the chief magistrate, for his unceasing and indefatigable exertions towards this end. Open on all sides, as Hong-Kong is, and containing so many small bays, where native boats can easily be hid, and swarming, as these seas do, with all sorts of craft, no wonder that the sudden riches thrown on this formerly deserted spot should excite the cupidity of its neighbours; and difficult to defend, both as Victoria itself is, as well as the villages in other parts of the

island, the inhabitants too frequently fall a prey to those crafty and ferocious robbers; the success with which they too often meet, causing others to try the same measures, and leads frequently to serious consequences. A brother aid-de-camp succeeded in running a man through the body close to our house, which put a stop to any attempt to rob his residence for some time.

The piracies and murders which take place in the neighbourhood, although very much diminished since the gradual restoration to peace and order, are still very frequent. The Chinese authorities resort to the worst method of putting a stop to them —that of purchasing off the leaders, zealously refusing all assistance from us in the business.

Many is the unfortunate Englishman that has met with an untimely end, either through his own temerity, or through over anxiety to make money, entering into schemes with nefarious natives to overreach the revenue officers, and falling a victim at the hands of the very fellows whom he had instigated to assist his own purposes.

To shew the extent to which these piracies

were carried last year, in the immediate vicinity of our new settlement, I will quote a few words from the "Canton Register," and other papers published in China:

"It seems that the Ladrones outside are worse than ever. They have mustered a fleet of 150 fighting boats, establishing themselves in open defiance of the authorities, and are exacting Black Mail from all the native craft that pass. I suppose they deem it against their interests to attack foreign vessels. The other day they captured the Lung-moon-heep, the mandarin who has charge of the Bogue, cut off his ears, and carried away his seals. For these they demand 60,000 dollars, but they are only offered 3000 dollars. The report is since, that the Heep is dead."

"The pirates are growing more daring than ever in this river, and murder and robbery, we are sorry to say, are now being most frequently committed on the water, without there being, apparently, any means of putting an end to these doings. The English lorcha (a lighter of large size, built like those used in Macao), Enterprise, Captain James Sharpe, was on her way from

Macao, on Thursday night, the 5th instant, at night near Fansiak, was run aboard by pirates, and the vessel plundered of a very valuable cargo of about 25,000 dollars' worth, and then set on fire. It appears that the lorcha was attacked by pirates on her way to Hong-Kong, six hours after she had left Macao, and a northerly wind blowing at the time, it is probable that she may have been under or near Lantao. Captain Sharpe and Mr. Wilson were first waked by a noise on deck; immediately after, the pirates entered the cabin, cut Captain Sharpe's throat in his bed, and Mr. Wilson, when intending to make his way on deck, was knocked down, and lay some while stunned, for which reason he is unable to give any account of what passed immediately after. However, there is little doubt that the Manila men and the mate were likewise murdered. Mr. Wilson, the steward, and a Chinese female, contrived to secrete themselves in the pantry, where, however, they were discovered and ill-treated, the former receiving a cut just under the eye, and the steward very badly wounded. The greater part of one day was employed by the pirates in plundering the

vessel of all it contained, having completed which, they set her on fire and left her. Luckily, the lorcha's boat was astern, into this Mr. Wilson, not without danger of drowning, the female and the steward, contrived to get, whilst the lorcha was all on fire; and, at the mercy of wind and tide, they were, on the following day, drifted on the Island of Potoy, where they were kindly received by the fishermen, who hospitably gave them food and dressed their wounds; the poor steward, however, expired two days after, from the severe hurts he had received. It was only yesterday, at noon, that the fishermen, after having made a bargain for a considerable reward (sixty dollars), the island being but about twelve miles distant, ventured on taking Mr. Wilson to Macao, where he arrived, after his almost miraculous escape, late last night. The Chinese woman was on this day to leave Potoy in a fisherman's boat, for Whampoa, to which place she belongs. The loss of life on this melancholy occasion, therefore, is reduced to six instead of eight. Mr. Wilson saw the corpse of Captain Sharpe."

"Two of the pirate boats which attacked

Mr. Sharpe's lorcha have been taken. The officers chaced them from the second bar—they having heard that the pirates had been committing some more sanguinary depredations—up amongst the opium vessels, on the morning of the 13th instant, and then asked the aid of those vessels in their capture. The boats were forthwith manned and armed, and the pirates were taken in a few minutes: five were shot, and twelve made prisoners and brought to Canton on the next morning. They confessed their great guilt, and gave the names of all implicated. We have not heard if any of the lost property has been recovered, but have confident expectation that it will be, all or in part, as well as all the villains concerned in the atrocious deed; for, from the excellence of the Chinese police, when they are once upon a scent, they seldom lose the trail."

"Three Chinese junks, from Namo, called at Hong-Kong, on the 12th of the 11th moon, and paid to a man in town, for their pirate pass, seventeen dollars for each junk. They proceeded immediately to Macao, where they sold their cargo for about 2100 dollars; and on their return to this place,

on the 16th of December, were attacked by a pirate boat, with one hundred men, and plundered of all, including the money and other valuables. On application to the man who received the money for their pass, he refused to make good the loss sustained, on the plea that the pirates belonged to another clan. This statement I received this morning from the men of the junks, and there is every reason to believe it correct.

"Since writing the above, three junks have arrived from the east coast. On their entrance into Hong-Kong harbour, two of them were attacked and plundered by pirates, while one made its escape. One man is said to have been killed and others wounded, while the remainder declare themselves unwilling to proceed in either direction from the harbour, for fear of pirates." Each month the gazettes contained piratical accounts almost as numerous as the foregoing.

The harbour at Hong-Kong was generally very crowded with Chinese native craft. The gayest and most highly decorated boats which arrived at our port, were those which brought from Canton a mercantile commodity very commonly trafficked in by the Chinese. These were young ladies who

were bent upon the speculation of marriage, being brought from the exuberant population of the interior towns to supply this deficiency amongst the numerous settlers who had come from the continent to our new colony, so many of every trade and occupation having already flocked in vast numbers to the island. These boats arrived with drums and gongs beating, and colours flying, generally coming to an anchor immediately under my own window; tea-tables were soon arranged, and the young ladies, from twenty to forty in number, arrayed in their smartest jackets and trousers, might be seen endeavouring to bewitch those visitors who flocked to the boats. I was informed that the price, generally speaking, averaged from 100 to 200 dollars, the greater portion of which money was transferred to the mother of the young lady, a due proportion being charged for the expenses attendant upon the voyage, together with commission, &c., upon the bargain. I have known instances of some of the natives of India becoming purchasers; but in that case, they would obtain solely the refuse of the community. Upon one occasion, a hitmutgar, or table-servant, a native of Bengal, complained to me, and

entreated my interference, stating that he had entrusted a friend of his own, who had gone to Macao, with 100 dollars, all his savings, for the purpose of buying him a nice comely wife; but, when she arrived, she by no means answered the description given of her, being too short and too old, and by no means a 100 dollar wife, but not more than a thirty dollar one; when, much to his grief, as well as surprise, he only got laughed at by me for his pains.

Macao, poor Macao! thy glorious days are passed—never, alas, I fear, to break forth again, unless, indeed, thy parent kingdom renovates, in a most extraordinary degree, her rotten trunk, clipping off her branches, and pouring fresh fatness to her decayed roots! From the day on which the Union Jack was hoisted on the neighbouring island, your fate was sealed, to decay and die like Goa.

Macao is distant from Hong-Kong about forty-five miles, lying at the western entrance of the Canton river, most excellently situated as a port of commerce to that large city; the want of that which, however, proves most valuable to our settlement, is

the ruin of this more ancient one—a good or commodious harbour for large vessels not existing within miles; on the contrary, the roadstead of Macao is perfectly open to the east and the north-east, from which quarter the dreaded typhoons blow the fiercest, added to which, our ships of eighteen or twenty feet draught, cannot with safety approach the town within five or six miles. Great exertions were made by the second house in the richest foreign mercantile community in the world, still to retain Macao as the seat of mercantile government; but, after two years of unremitting exertion, towards this end, they found they were obliged to give it up in despair, and were glad to procure land upon infinitely worse terms, than they could have accepted it, had they acceded to the orginal propositions upon which it was to be obtained.

Few towns have so handsome an appearance from the water as the effect produced by the Praya of Macao. Having so good a model so near at hand, it seems a great pity that it was not followed in our buildings at Hong-Kong, which, for some time, were raised without plan or design, at the will or

pleasure of the owner, until latterly his own architect. The large sums which the foreign community at Macao, English and American, have been accustomed to pay for many years for their houses, has tended greatly to enrich their owners, none but Portuguese subjects being allowed to possess landed property or houses in the settlement, who, little profiting by the signs of the times, have no sooner received their rents than they have immediately laid them out in fresh buildings, or beautifying the old, regardless of the old adage—that of looking out for rainy weather—which has at last set in, to their great discomfort! This beautifying the town, however praiseworthy, will, I fancy, turn out sadly inconvenient to themselves, as most of the families will find that they have large houses with no one to occupy them, or, what is worse, to pay rent for them; and ere long a sad ruin will poor Macao become. Already have most of the Chinese shopkeepers—a thrifty knowing set—either located themselves, or are on the point of doing so, on the rival settlement, flying like rats from a falling house; and, within a few years, should

Macao not fall into the hands of our adventurous neighbours, on the other side of the English Channel, who, from motives rather of pride than profit, are exceedingly anxious to gain a footing in the Imperial dominions, I am afraid she will fall into a state of desolation and decay very sad to be witnessed by those who can remember the happy days of her prosperity.

There resides at Macao a singular character in the person of a portrait painter, a Chinese, of the name of Lamqua, a great politician, who, until the late reverses met with by his imperial master, had full belief in the power of the Tartar emperor; he shews a wonderful degree of talent in his pictures, which are executed altogether after the European style.

I was amused with an anecdote which I heard related of a fair countess, a native of Macao, who now resides in London, of whom it was said that such was the love she bore to her native city, that notwithstanding her residence at the other side of the globe, it was still her invariable custom to send her household linen to be washed in China.

Both the Spaniards and Portuguese are noted for excelling in this particular branch of industry, although I do remember sad complaints from one of our naval commanders relative to the destruction of a new Stultz waistcoat.

No one could dream of visiting Macao without paying their respects to Mr. C——. That talented artist has been a resident there, and at Canton, for a great number of years; and although his powerful genius meets with the best reward it can do there, yet the field is small and contracted — differing widely from his own mind and pencil. Well was I rewarded when I paid him my accustomed visit, not only enjoying the repast of criticising his countless productions of art, but listening to those numberless anecdotes which he had invariably at command, and which he told with such spirit and *naïveté*; he was a little disturbed by any casual allusion to his brother of the brush—Lamqua, the Chinese artist just mentioned — stoutly denying his being a pupil of his. He spoke with fondness of the old days in the Company's time, as being the pleasantest recollections

of his life, detailing with great fervour the splendid life they lived in Canton, being evidently no mean gastronomist himself. Upon one occasion I asked him how, in those halcyon days, did so large a body of the Company's servants as then existed in China employ themselves? "Sir," said he, "they spent six months in Macao, having nothing to do, and the other six months in Canton, sir, doing nothing. Ah! sir, those were fine days in the time of the Company."

During the time of my residence in Hong-Kong I had many opportunities afforded me of visiting Canton, which may be truly classed as one of the most extraordinary cities in the world; principally, perhaps, from the excess of the living human beings, who literally swarm in all directions, both in the city and its neighbourhood.

The city of Canton is distant from the island of Hong-Kong about 100 miles—the greater portion of which is well within the river. On leaving our settlement, steam-vessels almost invariably proceed direct to the northward of Lantao Island, unless they wish to call at Macao, which is not more

than twenty miles out of the direct course; in this latter case they generally prefer leaving the island of Lantao to the north, as being a safer route; sailing vessels almost invariably prefer this course, being more free from hidden danger, and less liable to calms, which exist under the high lands. Near the narrow pass, about forty miles below Canton, lay the Bogue Forts, so often mentioned during the early events in the Chinese campaign. These were destroyed after having been a considerable time in our possession, by order of the Commander-in-chief. Since the war, immense sums of money, and incredible labour has been bestowed to put them in order again: badly and injudiciously, however, have these sums been laid out; the forts are still completely commanded by the high ground in the rear; additional strength in masonry and number of guns being solely attended to; modern style of fortification, to repel modern warfare, having been totally neglected. On this account they would now as easily fall into the hands of any well organized European force as they formerly did into ours, though, in all probability, a

larger share of casualties would be the result; for, as the reader may remember from the public despatches, not a single European life was sacrificed by us in gaining them, save one man killed by the bursting of one of our own guns.

The anchorage at Whampoa is sufficiently pointed out, long before it is approached, by the gigantic European merchantmen, at all times and seasons anchored there, seldom numbering less than thirty or forty, frequently far exceeding 100; ships, of any large draught, are unable to approach nearer to the city than this place, which is distant about twelve miles. Here is a handsome pagoda, which marks the situation of the town of Whampoa itself, though the prejudices of the inhabitants have not been as yet sufficiently overcome as to allow to foreigners the freedom of visiting it, which, perhaps, would not have been the case, had our just resentment and anger fallen upon the heads of these cowardly, faithless, and arrogant people, rather than upon their more unfortunate brotherhood in the north. About half-way between this and Canton, a strong barrier still exists,

86063

which was placed there during the war, to prevent our ships from ascending to the attack of the city. It has caused much inconvenience in regard to the approach of the factories, without in any way adding towards their security, and will probably be the means of causing great damage to the surrounding country by damming up the stream, causing the river to break its banks and to find another channel for itself.

On a nearer approach to the provincial city, the organs of sight and hearing are literally bewildered by the immense number of human beings who are on all sides collected around. No idea can be formed of such a dense mass, by any one who has only visited the cities of Europe, or indeed any other country I ever saw. Square acres of boats cover the river, each of them literally crammed with human beings of all ages. Most of these boats are not used, as in other countries, where necessity alone requires them, but are here solely for the purpose of dwellings, being kept beautifully neat and clean, covered either with wood or matting. They are propelled by a long oar from the stern, skilfully turned from side to side, and

resting upon a pin of iron, thus causing the smallest possible friction. The most picturesque boats are those of the smugglers of salt and opium, as well as those of the preventive service, which in every way much resemble each other, and which are stated to have a perfect understanding among themselves; these are very long and narrow, fitted with lofty mat sails; are surrounded by ginjals, or wall-pieces, besides having cannon, of large calibre, in the bows and stern; they are propelled by rowers, from sixty to eighty in number, each with spear and shield ready for instant use, besides possessing a number of matchlockmen, their best marksmen. A capital description of these boats, of their armament and crew, is given in the *Friend of China*, which I shall here take the liberty of quoting:—

"The Chinese smuggling boats, named by the Chinese Tcheong-long-teng, are employed in the contraband (opium) trade in the Canton River and its various branches. They take a certain number of chests of the drug from on board vessels anchored at Macao, in the Typa, Hong-Kong, and even at

Whampoa, and they carry it for sale to the towns and villages in the vicinity. In whatever part of China the trade in opium may have been established, by common consent it has been determined to sell it for money; or rather, the English clippers will not deliver opium except for sycee silver or dollars; but, in all cases, the money is deposited by the buyer on the deck of the vessel, where the quality of the sycee is tested, and the dollars examined and weighed by the shroff; and it is not until the amount is agreed upon, and the money verified, that a delivery of the opium is made to the buyer, who ordinarily takes the chests without opening or any examination. Occasionally, gold in ingots, and small plates, are received in payment.

"The inferior mandarins, whose silence and connivance are mostly purchased by means of considerable presents from the smugglers, but sometimes by the offer of so much per cent. on all the transactions which may be made under their cognizance, are always disposed to give the smugglers a very great latitude. The mandarins, in fact, are well aware that the contrabandists would oppose

to their authority or interference an energetic resistance in case of need; and that, besides being well armed, they would mutually succour each other, so that they would come best out of an encounter, unless attacked by very superior numbers.

"The war by England against the Celestial Empire has induced such a laxity and confusion in the public service, and departmental administration of the Chinese, that, since a year and a half, Whampoa has become not merely the rendezvous of the Chinese smugglers, but also of European. They have there a special anchorage near the mouth of Junk River, and now you are almost always certain to see there some dozen of cutters or schooners who openly vend the drug.

"Although the Chinese smugglers do not precisely fear the mandarin boats, they always endeavour to avoid them, unless they have come to some agreement. If they, however, cannot escape being overhauled, they endeavour to negotiate, and will offer the mandarin and his crew a cumsha (a present) in order to obtain permission to continue their voyage. They do not fight except at

the last extremity, or unless the demands of the mandarin are too exorbitant; or, what is still more rare, unless that functionary shews himself inaccessible to corruption, and will not traffic with his duties. In this case a conflict will ensue; and if the smugglers think they shall get the worst of it, they endeavour to gain the shore, from which they are rarely very far, and abandon to the victor the boat and its cargo.

"The smugglers go up as high as Canton, and even beyond, to Fo-shan-foo, with supplies of opium, which they unload clandestinely at night. They study the markets with great care, and endeavour to arrive with the drug at the places which, they know, are ill supplied, or of which the stocks are well nigh exhausted. They go sometimes into the districts of Chin-chew (province of Fo-kien) on the east coast, from the shores of which, on going up, they always keep at but a little distance. The innumerable number of bays, coves, and creeks which exist on this coast offer them abundant shelter in case of bad weather.

"On their return, they bring to Macao or Hong-kong teas and silk, which they have

bought either on the east coast at Amoy, Foo-chow, or at Fo-shan-foo. Although they are not of equal quality to those furnished by the Hong merchants, yet the teas often realize advantageously, as they pay no export duty, and the English or American vessel which is laden with them has not, in that case, to submit to the hard necessity of going up to Whampoa and there paying the enormous port charges exacted from all foreign vessels by the avarice or ignorance of the Chinese.

"We now present all the information in detail, which we were able to obtain some days since from on board a large smuggling-boat anchored in the bay of Hong-Kong.

"This boat belonged to a rich Chinese merchant, named Aqui, established for some time in the new English colony, and where this boat was built. Its construction employed forty carpenters during the whole of one month, and the entire cost, with rigging, &c., was 1600 dollars. These kind of boats, after three or four years, will require to be repaired; and if that be done, will last some three years more; say, altogether about seven years.

"The principal dimensions we now give:—

Length . . .	70 cubits.
Breadth amid-ship .	13 „
Depth of the hold .	5 „
Height of the main-mast	50 „
Do. mizen .	35 „
Drawing water . .	3½ „

"These are the dimensions of a smuggling-boat of the second class. One of the first would be seventy-eight cubits long. It is to be noted that the cubit is about one foot three inches, English.

"When the vessel is fully manned, the crew consists of one captain, one second ditto, sixty rowers, and ten sailors to steer and shift sails.

"The greater part of the men on board this boat belonged to the town of Whampoa, where the wives of those who are married reside. In every case they are not permitted to embark with their husbands, in the fear that they would cause them to lose courage in time of danger.

"This vessel, or fast boat, is able to carry 350 chests of opium, or 400 chests of Congou tea.

"From the profits of each voyage they always deduct the cost of provisions for the crew, which amounts to six dollars per day, or one hundred and eighty dollars per month.

"This first allowance made, the proprietor of the boat takes for himself half of the remaining sum. The other moiety devolves to the boat, and is divided among the crew in such proportions, that the captain gets 100 per cent., and the second ditto 50 per cent., beyond all the rest on board.

"With a calm sea and fair tide this boat can go at the rate of six miles per hour without using her sails. With a good breeze she can sail ten or twelve miles in the same time.

"During the night the watch consists of six men, relieved every hour. As there is no watch or clock on board, they calculate the time by means of a joss-stick, on which are four marks at equal distances. A watch extends from one mark to another. The joss-stick is lighted at eight o'clock at night. They use two during the night, from whence it will be seen the last watch finishes at four o'clock in the morning.

"The armament is composed in the following manner:—

1 Long cannon, 12-pounder.
1 ditto 6 ditto
12 Ginjalls (small rampart pieces fixed on pivots.)
1 English musket.
20 Pairs of double swords.
30 Rattan shields.
200 Pikes or lances of diverse forms.
60 Oars.
15 Mats to cover the vessel.
2 Cables, one of bamboo, the other of coir, of about fifty fathoms length. The latter kind is not ordinarily used by the Chinese.
1 Pump of bamboo tubes, (this is very rarely used, because, always being near the coast, if the boat makes water they heave her down on the beach to caulk)
1 Good telescope (European.)
1 do. compass.

"All boats of this kind do not use the European compass. Being generally so near shore, the Chinese compass is found to be sufficiently exact for them.

"Except at Hong-Kong, where the smugglers find themselves at perfect liberty to do as they please, the crews generally remain on board, a few only going on shore to purchase the necessary provisions.

"In case of a quarrel on board, the dis-

turbers are, by common consent, put ashore. The captain has not the power to strike a man, nor to put him in irons.

"There are no regular articles of agreement. The captain gives merely some one or two dollars in advance to the sailors, whom he selects. There are no medicines on board, and the sick or wounded are landed as soon as possible to be nursed.

"No man is permitted to smoke opium till the vessel is at anchor in some place where she is in safety.

"All breakage or damage in manœuvring, or by bad weather, is at the risk and cost of the owner; but if a man breaks anything by negligence, he is obliged to pay for it.

"The powder is in a wooden chest, in care of the captain. The cartridges are made of Chinese bamboo paper, resembling silk paper. It combines great strength and fineness. In ordinary times, the smugglers never have more than a picul of powder on board, say 133 lbs.; but when they apprehend an attack from the mandarins or pirates, they put on board one or two piculs more."

Immense junks, fantastically painted, are ranged in the neatest order and in endless numbers, in all parts of the Canton river, most gorgeously decked out with flags and pendants, while the noisy drums and gongs are continually sounding in all directions —signals of the prosperous return from some foreign voyage of a hazardous undertaking, or proclaiming the native offerings to their idols for prosperity on a future expedition; but the people — the immense masses of human beings — confound the understanding, and bewilder the imagination. Well may Captain Hall say, that the two most wonderful things he ever witnessed in his travels were the falls of Niagara and the city of Canton. Of the former, I can give no opinion—having as yet not been sufficiently fortunate to have visited them; but in the latter, I fully agree with this accomplished traveller. We dropped anchor rather below the foreign factories; the flags of the European consuls are particularly prominent, especially that of the French, whose commerce in the Celestial Empire, being considerably less than all other great nations, they think it right by such silly

artifices to hold forth and proclaim the power of their nation, by the size and height of their flag-staff, and do not scruple to go to an immense expense in sending a fleet of ships and steamers to enforce a commerce which it has hitherto kept up with one or two merchantmen annually visiting the country. This will, however, have no effect with such a mercantile race as the Chinese, who cunningly look to more solid proofs of commercial prosperity and speculation than a large line-of-battle ship, or a wide field of bunting. The great fires which have taken place during the years of 1842 and 1843—the first, intentional incendiarism on the part of the Chinese rabble; the last, the consequence of accident—have destroyed the greater portion of those splendid buildings, the foreign factories, leaving the centre portion alone standing.

It has not unfrequently happened that a discovery has been afterwards made that these fires have originated in the intentional act of ruffians and desperadoes, inhabitants of the city; in the midst of the confusion, consequent upon the success of their crimes, they are able to reap much plunder from the

affrighted inhabitants and their burning tenements; to a dreadful excess was this carried on during the large fires in 1840—it having been clearly ascertained that bands of these wretches rushed into the innermost recesses of the houses — the women's apartments, and seizing their unfortunate victims, utterly regardless of their screams and cries for mercy, they with short hatchets, with which they were provided for the purpose, actually hewed off the limbs of their fair suppliants—the readiest method of becoming possessed of the rich bangles and armlets of gold and silver with which ladies of wealth and consideration are invariably adorned, but which being placed upon their legs and wrists when young, will not come off without they are filed asunder.

Fearful, however, is the retribution visited upon them for wilful incendiarism. An account of the punishment which was carried into execution upon a party who were discovered at the latter end of 1843, I will give in the very words of an eye-witness in a letter to myself:—

"The small community of Europeans here have been disgusted for some time past with one of the most inhuman spectacles that I think was ever heard of, and which, within the last few days only, has been removed. You may remember that several Chinamen were captured soon after the great fire, and having undergone some sort of trial, were condemned, as incendiaries, to suffer the following punishment:—they were divided into parties of eight or ten, in different parts of the most crowded thoroughfares, and after being severely bambooed about the head and face, were put into the wooden collar, (the cangue,) and literally starved to death. I was passing the old Cousoo-house, just at the end of Old China-street, where two of these unfortunate wretches had just been relieved from the collar; they were quite dead. Stretched on the pavement in front of them, were four others, who were so near dissolution that they appeared quite unconscious of what was passing around; and yet the perpetrators of those horrid scenes have the audacity to call us barbarians."

Had any Chinese attempted to have administered the slightest relief to these unfortunate wretches, the punishment inflicted upon him for his contumaciously disregarding the orders of the authorities, would have been that of suffering the same himself.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Canton—Curiosity shops—Manufacture of antiquities—Food—The Sha-ming—Chinese frigate—Hospitality—Defences of Canton—Restricted intercourse with the natives—Extent of the opium trade—Head-quarters of the smugglers—Mercantile profits—Robbery by an American.

THE Chinese have now granted a large portion of ground to foreigners; those who desire to build, are to pay a stipulated yearly ground-rent. This land is the same on which the factories formerly stood; with an additional increase of space, more suited to the necessities of the increased numbers, amongst whom the trade, formerly monopolized by so few, is now participated.

The space in the front of the factories is exceedingly limited, so much so as to render

anything beyond pedestrian exercise absurd. Prompted, either by vanity or by an irresistible love of the quadrupedal species, an American gentleman brought his horse from Macao, and for some days persisted in riding up and down a space of ground not much larger than the deck of a seventy-four. In doing this, he was obliged to pass, at each turn, a certain coffee-shop, the owner of which speedily saw a method of turning to his own account the curious propensity of the foreigner, and actually placed on his doorway an advertisement stating that he had hired a Fanqui to ride opposite his house for the diversion of his guests, from five to six every evening, and begged those who wished to see the sight would patronise his house at that hour. Great was the delight of Jonathan at the crowd of spectators who were gathered round him for the next few succeeding days, and deep was his annoyance upon the truth of the matter getting wind among the community, the circumstance transpiring by reason of one of their number, a good Chinese scholar, having been himself attracted to read the adver-

tisement. It is needless to add, the horse went again to Macao, by the first opportunity.

The sights at Canton, although limited as to number, are all so novel in their character, that they do not cease to satiate a stranger for a considerable time; he must, however, be proof, indeed, to temptation, who can leave it without having dipped freely into his bag of dollars. The shops and streets round about the factories, the only ones that the Fanqui is even now permitted to enter, are crowded with articles of every description, and are fitted up far more after the European model than in any other eastern nation I have yet seen. The most remarkable street is that which contains the curiosity shops, and the birds'-nest pickers, (I mean those who are preparing the birds'-nests for soup,) the latter of these are very numerous, and seem to employ a vast number of men, who are constantly separating, with great agility, the particles of dirt and feathers from the nest, in which occupation the length of the nails seems to be of considerable convenience; the former, the venders of anti-

quities, generally make a good harvest among strangers, rating their demands according to the dispositions of their purchasers, having a peculiar talent of scanning, by the face, not only the depth of the purse, but the freedom with which its contents will be disbursed. These shops are certainly loaded with the rarest curiosities; such, indeed, as from their eccentricity, as well as real merit, would be highly prized at home; already has more than one shop been bought entire, and shipped for England. Cut Jade-stone seems to be the highest prized, a small jar or figured cup, frequently costing as much as three or four hundred dollars; beautiful copper vases and figures are innumerable, many of which are of immense age and chaste design. Already, however, have this thrifty race commenced the fabrication of antiquities, so that it requires to be somewhat a judge not to be deceived. Some rare China is occasionally to be found, dating prior to the Myng dynasty; it fetches a considerable price in Canton—far more so than it would in London, its merit not being properly understood out of the country itself in which it is made.

Nankin china very far surpasses any which is made further south.

We visited the house of a Chinese resident gentleman, which was beautifully arranged, and most unique as to furniture and embellishment; to describe the *tout ensemble*, is utterly impossible. In its inner court-yard were large fish preserves, interspersed with artificial rock work, and water-lilies and other aquatic plants were flourishing luxuriantly. Of this species of garden the Chinese are particularly fond. The factories of lacquer ware are also worthy of inspection; but, of late years, the Chinese have been immeasurably left in the back-ground in this manufacture by our own work-people, who, again, are as much excelled by the Japanese.

We crossed the river, and visited the joss-house of Honan, which occupies a considerable space of ground; it is divided into many temples and cells for monks, besides possessing a large garden in its rear, which, from being situated so conveniently as regards the town, no doubt adds considerably to the profits of the establishment. Perhaps one of the most remarkable

features about this holy building is, a sacred swinery, which is kept up with religious care by the holy brotherhood; many of these beastly monsters have grown to a hideous form and size. They are entirely supported from the contributions of the visitors to the temple. None of them, I was told, were allowed to be killed; but I very much suspect that their numerous offspring constantly supply the padres' board, the veil of sanctity protecting them but slenderly from this swine-devouring community.

The Chinese, in point of food, widely differ from most other eastern nations, and in this, as well as a thousand other peculiarities, more resemble Christians. All ridiculous prejudices in their ideas regarding caste, &c., which are held so sacred in the eyes both of Mussulmans and Hindoos—so much so, indeed, as to disrespect them would even endanger the government,—are here unknown; nor are they restricted by any calendar from indulging their appetites in whatever suits their fancy or their fortune. In the markets, sucking-pigs and dogs are equally exposed for sale—the one being as readily purchased as the other. The latter,

however, are not freely bought after they have been fed upon animal diet, except by the very poorest classes, but are nourished with milk and rice on purpose for the table. In the markets at Canton, I have observed, side by side, a pheasant and a cat; and, upon inquiry, found them to bear precisely the same value. The cormorant, the wild duck, the hawk, and the pigeon, being respectively indulged in by the *bon vivant*, while the salted rat, dried in the sun, seemed to be an object of peculiar relish. Previous to their putting this animal to death, they frequently inflict upon it the most excruciating agony—whether or no upon the same principle that we consider a hunted hare more delicate than one that has been shot, I leave to my readers to determine. I have frequently seen a workman catch a rat, and with the forefinger and thumb dexterously break all the animal's teeth, leaving it in that state until the evening, when it is killed and flayed for supper. They are, moreover, constantly in the habit of nailing the rat upon a flat board by the four paws, and leaving it in that position many hours, and seem amazed at any one taking com-

passion upon the wretched beast. This animal is generally salted and dried in the sun prior to being eaten, as they say they taste infinitely more delicate after this preparation. Ducks, coots, and other waterfowl are prepared in the same manner, and, to a stranger, have much the appearance of salted ling, being dried and squeezed flat after the same fashion.

Some would suppose that it was necessity alone which would drive this exuberant population to the use of such food, however unpalatable. I do not conceive they have any distaste for it, but rather a relish. Severe cases of distress, and occasionally positive suffering, from want of food, must be felt amongst such a mass of human beings; but I am sorry to think that equally severe pressure from the same cause is not altogether unknown in our own quasi happy land.

Bichos di mare, or sea-slugs, as well as the fins of sharks and other large fish, are much relished by the Chinese of all classes; the first are eaten with soy, the last are used for the purpose of thickening soups. They are both imported into the country from the

islands of the Eastern Archipelago in great quantities, and form a source of considerable profit to the needy inhabitants of Borneo, the Celebes, Macassar, and the Philippine group.

Of fruits there are an endless variety, as I have already mentioned. A country garden belonging to one of the old Hong merchants, Tinqua, which is situated about three or four miles up the river, is, in its way, a perfect curiosity; the endless ramifications of its walks and bridges, summer-houses, tea-houses, &c., quite bewilder the beholder. It is stated to have cost a considerable sum of money, which can easily be credited. On our return, we passed by night through the Sha-ming, which consists entirely of square acres of the river divided into streets and lanes of boats of all sorts and sizes, from the gaily-painted and gaudily-decked flower-boat to the tiny egg-boat with its family of squalling brats. These are invariably lit up at night; sounds of merriment and mirth, open theatres, smoking-houses, dancing rooms, opium smoking, and every species of debauchery and vice on all sides surrounded us, while the mass of

human beings which throng the way, and literally jostle, for standing room, with one-another quite bewilder the imagination.

Already has the pride of the Chinese succumbed to reason—already have this proud race consented to lay aside their old customs and usages in more than one instance, and to adopt the improvements of the outside barbarians, who have taught them, by many a bitter lesson, that respect which they for so long a time failed to pay them. They have already launched one fine frigate, built by an American—a beautiful model, which will no doubt be a fine sailer. For some few years, doubtless, they must be dependent upon Europeans, or their half-cast offspring, in the east, for managing them; but so clever and intelligent a race will not long be left in the lurch, when, once having thrown aside the thraldom of their prejudices, they submit to be taught by those for whom they so long shewed so utter a contempt. It is needless for me to add, that, as yet, no hotel has been established in Canton, the boundless generosity of the foreign mercantile community looking upon such an innovation as a check to that hospi-

tality for which they have been so long and so justly noted.

Of the defences of the city against any future attack, I have the meanest idea; it is not, in my opinion, defensible against a European force. The batteries which already exist are easily turned by an invading army on the land side. Should they be disembarked near Whampoa, on gaining a long ridge of low hills, they may march straight upon the rear of Canton, completely commanding the highest position of the city, the walls being nowhere sufficient to detain any determined body of men, properly supplied with the munitions of war, for twenty-four hours; and this, the chief provincial city, once in the hands of an enemy, the whole province would quickly submit to any terms it might think proper to dictate.

A long residence in Canton must be peculiarly dull and wearisome to any one who is not fully occupied with business, as any rambling beyond the immediate neighbourhood of the factories themselves is attended with inconvenience, from the insults of the inhabitants, if not with personal danger. Many have been the instances in which a

severe bambooing has been the result of curiosity, which, during the old system, generally ended in the unfortunate culprit meeting rather with the laughter than the commiseration of his friends—a complaint seldom being made, for fear of causing some disturbance with the authorities, and consequently a stoppage put upon trade, which, were it for ever so short a period, might be attended with great loss to the mercantile community.

As an instance of this, I will mention a circumstance which happened to a well-known individual in the Chinese community, and one who afterwards sustained his part at the siege of Amoy, and who, from his great proficiency in the Chinese language, has gained for himself a lasting name in history. This gentleman, some years since, being in a mercantile house of celebrity in China, and having at that time made a great proficiency in the language, he thought he had succeeded sufficiently to enter into the dangerous diplomacy of love; and after a few conversations with a young Chinese lady, he assented to the experiment of an assignation. At the appointed time, the

lover was at his post—a certain flower-boat in the river—burning with the fierceness of his passion; nor was the fair one less punctual to her appointment. Scarce, however, had a few minutes' conversation passed between them in the interior of this comfortable dwelling, rendered still more so by the cold of a wintry night, than angry voices were heard outside; the culprit was rudely snatched from the arms of his beloved, and being tied back to back with his inamorata, was placed, *sans culotte*, on the summit of the boat. This was no enviable position, the cold of the night being excessive; nor by any means were his misfortunes mitigated at the dawn of day, for then his awkward position, with the apparent cause, became visible to all, a living laughing-stock to the innumerable host of passers-by. In this state, I was informed, was he kept for two days. No entreaties regarding his release, on the part of the foreign community, availed; threats, at that time, would have been but an aggravation of the evil. After this, they agreed to receive, from the house of his employer, a sum of money for his ransom, which was immediately paid, although it

amounted to 3000 dollars. Very little notice was taken of the circumstance, as the trade was then pretty brisk, and the little dross which was accumulated by this loss of honour—the spot of dirt thrown upon the British ensign—was speedily gilded over, the rent being sewn up with golden thread. No wonder, therefore, that the people of Canton had no respect for us, and no small care will be requisite on our part to prevent their falling into the same error for the future.

During this occurrence, no attempt at bodily injury, of a serious kind, was made towards him; as in that case there would have been a chance of its reaching the imperial ears, a remonstrance from the foreign community being imperative. This might have led to serious consequences upon the Chinese themselves; indeed, their fear lest anything should happen to his person while in their possession was excessive; as an instance of this, I was told another anecdote which happened to a second gay Lothario, who was likewise surprised in his amours, and taken prisoner. A large sum was asked for his release, which he refused. Knowing that his friends were well aware of his position, he

determined, by a bold manœuvre, to thwart the projects of the scoundrels in whose clutches he then was. Excellent food was offered to him, which, however he had the strength of mind to refuse, declaring he had made a vow not to eat until he was released. On the second day, they, fearing some catastrophe, and its consequences, dainties of every kind were offered to him. He still remained firm to his purpose, stoutly refusing to partake of them; threats and entreaties alike proved vain, until, overcome by their alarm for his life, they offered, and indeed entreated him to go peaceably home. Feigning indifference to life, he coolly said that he had made up his mind to die where he was; that he knew his death would be avenged upon themselves and families in the highest degree possible, and that the sacrifice of his life would be well repaid by the forfeiture of their own. Fully giving him credit for the truth of what he said, they used every entreaty in their power to make him relinquish his determination, which at last they succeeded in doing, at the expense of a large number of dollars collected among them and their friends, full well knowing

that had the circumstance reached the ear of the governor, whatever might have befallen the culprit, they themselves would be quite sure of a good squeezing for having had the audacity to take the law into their own hands, instead of reporting the circumstance to higher authorities, and therefore allowing the ransom to flow into the more legal channel—*id est*, the pockets of the mandarins.

Liberty of intercourse with the natives of Canton has been, and still is, as thoroughly objected to on the part of the Chinese as a freedom of locomotion. I once succeeded in gaining admission, and proceeded a short distance within the gates of the city, but was immediately surrounded by a rascally mob, who gave unequivocal signs of deterring my further progress; and, indeed, had I, and the friends who were with me, not speedily and prudently determined upon a return, a sore skin, from the effects of the bamboo, would, I am convinced, have been the consequence; and having gone there neither under the auspices of the consul, nor with my proper

uniform, I should, I am afraid, have gained but little redress.

Wanton affronts, or personal violence, which may, in future, be offered to any Europeans, will, no doubt, meet with redress, as our trade is now established on a far firmer footing than to be shaken by any little differences with the mandarins; though I am afraid it will be some years ere the barbarians will be allowed to roam freely through the vicinity of the provincial city, Canton—old customs and prejudices being so deeply rooted in the mass of its inhabitants; but in central China already has a mutual understanding and good fellowship sprung up; and a trip in the country, shooting, &c., is constantly the order of the day in the neighbourhood both of the cities of Ning-po or Shang-hai.

Labour in our West Indian colonial possessions, seems, at present, the grand desideratum, the expense at which it is obtained precluding that return for invested capital which would authorize its outlay. Hill-coolies from the East Indies have been conveyed over to some extent to supply this

deficiency; but, in my opinion, planters would do more wisely by applying to China for these coolies. Nor have I formed this opinion hastily; but, after good opportunities of judging, contrasting the manners and habits of these two races, I am bound to say I lean much in favour of the Chinese. The Indian coolies, although a hard-working race, are filled with prejudices in regard to their castes, and are always sighing for their native soil when absent from it, gaining no real love for the country into which they may be implanted. The Chinaman, on the contrary, from the very circumstance of leaving his own country forfeits all right to return. Indeed, he subjects himself to severe punishment should he do so. The peasantry are an active, strong, healthy, and intelligent race, and far superior in the arts of husbandry to any other race upon earth. They are attentive, thrifty, and very peaceably inclined; and once they have become settled in their new country, marrying readily with the natives, they have no wish to return home, even if liberty were freely granted them to do so.

Thousands and tens of thousands might

be found, more especially in the south of China or the province of Fokien, where, from the exuberance of population, infanticide is so frequently resorted to, ready and anxious to take employment in any part of the globe, proper inducements being held out to them to do so, their safeguard being the high opinion they now hold of the faith of the British ensign.

Very few quiet-going people at home have the least idea of the magnitude to which the trade in opium is carried on in China, or the daring and determined character with which it is prosecuted; this is fostered through the folly of the imperial court, in still retaining the prohibitory laws against its admission into the country. From the experience I had in constantly watching its use, I am of opinion that, taken as it almost invariably is, in great moderation, it is by no means noxious to the constitution, but quite the reverse, causing an exhilarating and pleasing sensation, and, in short, does them no more harm than a moderate quantity of wine does to us. It must always be had in mind, that in point of food, they are generally moderate and abstemious, and

their drink is seldom other than very weak tea. Of course, if carried to excess, opium is as bad, but I think not worse, than the immoderate use of spirits, which too frequently in our own country brings on *delirium tremens*, and a hundred other dreadful maladies. The horrible scenes which the immoderate use of opium have been known to produce, are generally confined to the Malays, upon whom we, from having so long had unrestricted intercourse, could watch its effects. Judging by analogy, we have been accustomed to set it down that the highly civilized Chinese were in the habit of disgracing themselves in the same way that the wretched Malay did, because he was accustomed to use the same intoxicating drug; as well might we say that the entire population of England were dram-drinkers because the Canadian back-woodsman was addicted to the immoderate use of spirits. The use of this drug has now become so general that although prohibitory laws may, in some measure, deter them from it, by increasing its price, yet where so many men are determined to have it, its introduction into the country cannot be prevented ;

perhaps, indeed, these very difficulties only increase the desire. The great evil to the country itself is, that it causes a constant drain from China of the precious metals, the clippers being willing to receive nothing else of greater bulk, though of even more value, in exchange for it.

Seldom, as yet, have the Chinese had the courage to attempt by force of arms to suppress its introduction by the capture of any of the foreign smuggling vessels on the high seas. One instance, however, occurred about three years since, at Hainam, where a schooner was attacked by more than twelve boats, but which she managed to beat off, although at her first broadside, one of her carronades bursting, five out of the six men, who were serving it were killed. They seem to be a bolder set at this island than elsewhere, having had the audacity to attack one of H. B. M. brigs, about twelve months since, while cruising on the coast. The commander seeing their approach with gongs beating, and banners flying, fancied they were paying him a compliment, and was first undeceived by their throwing fire-balls from their junks on board his ship,

endeavouring at the same time to grapple his vessel. Both musquetry and large guns were soon brought into play, but, unluckily, from their speedily getting into shallow water, where he dare not follow them, they escaped scot-free. There can be little doubt but that they mistook H. M. cruiser for an opium clipper, having very vague ideas upon this head; frequently applying to the officers of our men-of-war to sell them balls of opium, and when they were told the only balls they had on board were made of iron, they reluctantly gave credit to the fact of their having none of the drug on board.

Namoa Bay, situated between Hong-Kong and Amoy, is the head-quarters of the opium clippers, a regular commodore being appointed to the command of all those vessels that belong to the largest mercantile house in China, perhaps in the world, and who, I believe, have at least thirty, if not forty, of them sailing under their own colours. All these are well manned and armed, and may, in justice, be called a musquitoe fleet of war. The pay of these men is very considerable, averaging 25 dollars per month,

added to which they are allowed a profit upon all sales, which, at a rough guess, may be taken at 15 dollars more. Each European seaman may therefore calculate upon 40 dollars per month, or near 8*l*., besides his food. These are far better wages than he can obtain in any other part of the world; for this, however, he has to work hard, to be exposed to sun and wet, to be thoroughly obedient and honest, and last, though not least, he has to pay particular attention to hold his tongue when in harbour. Very spirited actions have occasionally been fought, with great credit to the commanding officers of these schooners. Once, in particular, they defended themselves in Namoa from a combined attack of a number of large junks—entirely routing all of them, they remained masters of the field. It is needless to observe, that their policy is never to be the aggressors, but for their individual safety they are compelled to defend themselves when attacked. The difficulties and obstacles under which this trade is prosecuted causes few, therefore, and those only of immense capital, to embark in it at all; but possessing this essential for carrying it on, their profits are sometimes perfectly enor-

mous, very frequently making cent. per cent. upon their outlay, all of which, remember, is paid down in sycee; indeed, the export of bullion from China during the last two years, by this traffic alone, is startling. It was currently reported in Hong-Kong, though I am altogether unable to say with what truth, that the *profits* of one mercantile house, from this and other sources, during the twelve months' prior to my departure, were upwards of 200,000*l.*—36,000*l.* being made in one instance alone, by reason of their receiving the mails from India a few days prior to the price current being known by the rest of the mercantile community.

The rapid strides to immense wealth which this house has now attained, were principally owing to the firm and energetic minds of two individuals who conducted it, at the first breaking out of the late difficulties with the authoriries of China. While others stood aloof, they alone had courage to tread the hazardous path, with a step so steady, and intellect so clear, as eventually led their names to assume the lofty position they now hold in that country.

The quantity of bullion which, in the

shape of sycee silver, is received in exchange for opium is, as I before said, enormous; and the apparent carelessness which is shewn regarding this valuable commodity, is rather singular, both the vessels, as well as their commanders, being oftentimes utterly strangers to the parties by whom it is consigned to their care. One instance of this occurred shortly after we left Chusan. The sum of ninety thousand dollars was shipped in a small schooner for Hong-Kong, the commander of which, an American, had the assurance to ask and receive freight upon it previously to his starting. On his road south, he, mistaking east for west, steered towards America instead of Macao. The schooner not making her appearance according to advices received, caused some anxiety to the parties; this was eventually brought to a crisis upon it being ascertained that the vessel had been positively seen in the Sandwich Islands; and some time after was reported to have entered the harbour of Valpariso, where the captain had sold the cargo of sycee, and carried the proceeds to America in the shape of Spanish *onsas d'oro*, or dobloons of gold, with which, it was also reported, he has purchased a handsome property.

CHAPTER XIX.

MANILA.

"Quien no ha visto á Manila—
No ha visto á una maravilla."

Arrival at Manila—Formalities—Canegidor—Hospitality of the Spaniards—Town of Manila—Inhabitants—Present for the queen—The corsada—Government feluccas—Religious procession—Santa Cruz.

Our treaty of commerce with the Chinese government having, at length, by the indefatigable exertions of Sir Henry Pottinger, been brought to a most satisfactory conclusion, H. B. M. consular agents having been, with the exception of Foo-chow-foo, despatched to their several ports, his excellency,

the naval commander-in-chief, felt himself at liberty to relinquish into the hands of his second in command the charge of H. B. M. squadron in the Chinese seas. Accordingly, on the 2nd of December, 1843, a final and parting visit of ceremony was exchanged between H. M. Plenipotentiary and himself; and on the afternoon of Monday the 4th, H. M. S. Cornwallis weighed anchor. Her destination was the East Indies, but the admiral had previously determined to visit the island of Luconia, the largest of the Philippine Archipelago, previous to his touching at Sincapore; he very kindly offered a passage there to Major-General Lord Saltoun and his staff, which invitation was, fortunately for myself, his aide-de-camp, accepted. H. M. S. Agincourt, with the flag rear-admiral, Sir Thomas Cochrane, accompanied us from Hong-Kong; H. M. 18-gun sloop, Dido, commanded by the Hon. Capt. Keppel, being despatched a few hours previously to Macao, with orders to join the squadron off the Ladrone Ialands, where, on the following morning, a reunion accordingly took place. Under the influence of a strong north-east monsoon, we ploughed our way over

the rugged deep for the port of Manila. In the afternoon, permission to return to Hong-Kong was granted to the Agincourt, which she availed herself of, exchanging farewell greetings with his excellency. Nothing extraordinary occurred; nor did we sight more than one vessel, which was bound to the same port with ourselves, until Saturday, the 9th, when the high land about Cape Bolina was descried from the mast-head, towards which we were progressing at an easy rate. The same evening, Capt. Keppel was sent ahead, the bearer of a congratulatory letter from his excellency the commander-in-chief to the governor of Manila, with directions to arrange the necessary formalities regarding a salute, &c., which occasionally, with these antediluvian Spanish authorities, require the utmost regard to punctilio and form—more especially as some difficulties had arisen upon the occasion of a visit by one of our highest naval officers, a few months previously, when an endeavour had been made to treat him rather discourteously, but which was duly apologized for, upon proper representation being made upon the subject. The

light winds which succeeded the strong breezes we had previously experienced, detained us for two days almost within sight of the harbour; but on Monday, the 10th, a stiff air setting directly out of its mouth, with its assistance, together with that of a strong current setting in, under double-reefed topsails, we were by nightfall enabled to bring up in the centre of the bay. This is of an oval form, about twenty miles wide by thirty long, land-locked nine-tenths of its circumference, giving it the appearance of a magnificent lake; the entrance to which is closed by a lofty island, named Caregidor, from the boisterous and heavy seas which would otherwise, during a south-west monsoon, be thrown into it, upon which a small fort and signal staff is erected. Having been for such a length of time resident upon the barren shores of China, where scarce a stick is allowed by that over-peopled country to attain the height of a bean stalk, we were all perfectly delighted with the immense vegetation which encumbered the coast in every direction, thousands upon thousands of acres of gigantic wood stretching out before us as far as the eye could reach, and which, under

the auspices of a more energetic and commercial race, would become a very prolific source of profit, by being transported, both as timber and fuel, to our new settlement of Hong-Kong, and also Macao, both of which places are at present supplied with these very requisite articles with much difficulty, and at a very considerable expense; it would here cost solely the labour of cutting and loading, and the expense of transport, neither of which ought to be very excessive, as the passage both ways across the China sea may be performed with almost a certainty of fair wind, so peculiarly are these harbours placed relatively to each other, and with regard to the monsoons which blow periodically upon the coast; the wind being north-east for eight months, and south-west for the remaining four, regularly throughout the year. On the following morning, Tuesday, the 11th of December, we descried the signal station of Cavita, the ancient harbour, behind a natural mole composed of sand, and where, indeed, some ships are now repaired, but which, on account of the water not been sufficiently deep, is somewhat fallen into disuse. We soon after came

in sight of the town itself, which had a pleasing appearance, the palace and cathedral being very prominent objects within the fort. At mid-day we came to anchor; scarce had we done so, when the captain of the port was alongside, who speedily granted us *pratique*. A salute of twenty-one guns was soon after fired, and duly returned; arrangements being entered into for landing the following day, and paying our respects to his excellency the governor, here styled the capitan-general.

There were not very many ships in harbour—in all, perhaps, ten or twelve, the trade not being very brisk. Most of the vessels which call here on their way from China to Bombay, to load with sugar and tobacco, are of considerable size, consequently being able to stow away a large cargo; thus, though small in number, yet in tonnage are very considerable.

On our landing, we were received with much courtesy by the Teniente del Rey and El Mayor de la Plaza, and conducted to the palace in numerous carriages and four, under the escort of a troop of cavalry; the capitan-general appeared anxious to secure the good

wishes of our chiefs, in which he had no difficulty in succeeding, guards of soldiers, to any extent, being offered, together with the constant attendance of a military band, both which were of course courteously declined. This reception being over, we proceeded directly to the house of Señor Don Otadin, who had, not solely in the courteous phraseology of the country, but in sober reality, placed his house at our disposal, and by whom both Lord Saltoun and Sir W. Parker were lodged and entertained during their entire visit at Manila.

The secondo cabo, or major-general, surrounded by a numerous band of officers, waited upon us, shewing a disposition on their part to be courteous and civil to the utmost in their power. The capitan-general, Señor Don Alcala, had arrived not more than six months from old Spain, having been sent out by Espartero, with a numerous suite of officers; and as the last mail had just brought news of the Duc de la Victoria having left Spain, they all had much fear for their own situations. El secundo cabo, Señor Don Crispon, was a fine old soldier, the whole of his life having been passed in

the camp, either in New Spain, or amongst the civil wars so constantly carried on in his own unhappy country, and which latter he seemed to think it highly probable he should very soon have to encounter again.

These ceremonials being concluded, we were conducted to the handsome quarters appropriated to us by the different merchants, who are throughout the East a generous and princely set of men. Not only a friend, but a mere acquaintance, however slight, is sure to be invited into their houses, for any length of time, his stay being at his own option, and which is made as agreeable as possible. For the next two or three days we amused ourselves visiting the city, and its immediate environs. It is divided into two parts by a deep and rapid river, a handsome stone bridge, connecting these, an arch of which having been destroyed by an earthquake, has been replaced by wood, giving it the appearance of a drawbridge, into which, indeed, it might with but little difficulty be constructed.

The town, which is on all sides fortified, is called Manila, and is situated at the south side of the river; it contains the palace of the

capitan-general, the cathedral, and many other public buildings, barracks, &c., with an enormous powder magazine, as well as many handsome streets, and shops. The other town, on the north side, is undefended, but is of greater extent, the streets being both wider and longer than the former. Here all the foreign merchants reside, most of them in spacious and agreeable houses, containing lofty saloons, without which the climate would be insufferable during the heat of summer. The houses are built in the most solid way; the gigantic timber used in their construction being the more striking to us who so lately had arrived from China, where, throughout the entire country, with the exception of the gardens belonging to some temple or joss, scarce a tree is ever seen that would make an Irish shillelah.

The inhabitants are divided into three classes. Firstly, Europeans, or white-faced, which, although the most powerful, are not, perhaps, the most wealthy, most of them having come from their native soil for the sole purpose of enriching themselves, and returning as speedily as that is effected; secondly, the natives, who are pretty gene-

rally designated by the haughty Castilians, as *los Indios*, with the kind of expression we should say—"Those dogs, who have no further sense than that of living for the passing hour;" and, thirdly, the Chinese;—all others experiencing the greatest difficulty in gaining a licence to remain upon the island, even European foreigners being obliged to petition for liberty to do so, which is never granted to them for a period of more than twelve months at a time, and frequently refused altogether.

The Chinese, naturally a thrifty and prudent race, take upon themselves all the lucrative, although laborious, functions in the city, the artisans and shopkeepers being almost entirely composed of this fraternity. They are a considerable source of profit to the government, a poll-tax being placed upon them, which is of the same amount upon each individual in this class, the separate sum each pays being regulated by a mandarin, who is chosen from among their body by themselves. They are a highly respectable, as well as industrious, and therefore wealthy community, as honest, perhaps rather more so, as any others of their class

I have seen either in China or the East Indian settlements, where I have so constantly met with them. They mostly come from Amoy, in the province of Fo-kien, from whence, indeed, most of the migratory Chinese are to be traced, the difficulty of gaining a subsistence, together with the exuberance of the population, causing more of the male members of this province to emigrate than any other, and tending towards the horrible crime of female infanticide, which is practised there to a greater extent than in any other. From one of the most intelligent of these men I had the happiness to learn that the conciliatory mode of government which we had adopted at Amoy, since first it fell into our hands, had met with universal applause; that, from the previous accounts given them by the mandarins of the dreaded barbarians, they had been led to expect nothing but the most relentless hardships practised towards them. Judge, then, their surprise, when, instead of this, they soon found that our mode of governing was far more lenient than their own, and that, so far from robbing them on all sides, we paid honestly for every supply we

stood in need of, thereby causing a large sum of money to circulate freely throughout the city.

The secondo cabo resides in Santa Cruz, immediately adjoining whose house is the tobacco manufactory; this being one of the principal sights of Manila, we neglected not to visit it. Tobacco, as in Old Spain, is a government monopoly, proper officers being appointed to superintend the manufactory, which is very extensive, containing at least fifteen or twenty long corridors, crowded with women—this class alone being employed; at the time of our visit they numbered seven thousand, who were at work from morning until evening. That certainly appears a large number; not so much so, when it is taken into consideration that the greater portion of our East Indian possessions receive the whole of their supplies of cheroots from Manila. The officer in charge of the establishment complained greatly of the trouble these said damsels gave him, which, indeed, is not much to be wondered at, when by some it is found a difficult task enough to take care of one. At the door of each room I observed a sturdy matron, with a strong bamboo-cane

in her hands, and from the grace with which it was handled, I think I am not wrong in stating, that it was as much for use as for show.

The natives may be reckoned as industrious, perhaps more so than are generally seen within the tropics. The manufacture, for which they are so famous, of cigar-cases, and hats of a peculiar grass, has long been known and deservedly prized at home. The most intricate Tartan plaid they will imitate with a faithfulness and dexterity truly surprising, and those who have received no instruction whatever in letters, will work a name or a figure with these differently coloured straws, without the smallest deviation from any given pattern. We were, however, unprepared to meet, amongst these rude people, with a fabric which as much surpasses in its texture the finest French cambric, as the latter does the commonest piece of Manchester cotton cloth. This latter is called piña, pronounced pinia, being made from the finest fibres of the pine, beaten out, combed, and wove with a delicacy that it is impossible to rival, possessing at the same time an incredible durability. Its

colour is white, slightly tinged with blue. Many months prior to our arrival, the great Parsee merchant of Bombay, who had lately been honoured by knighthood, Sir Jamsetgee Jegetboy, had directed an entire dress to be sent home, in order that he might present her Britannic Majesty with something that might be considered worthy the acceptance of his queen. We were fortunate enough to see it, just prior to its departure. The order had been for one large dress, and two or three small ones for the prince and princess, with an injunction from the munificent donor, that *three thousand* dollars' worth of labour should be expended upon it. I was assured by the merchant who undertook to execute it, that between thirty and forty women were employed for nine months, working the entire day, upon the tambour; and from the specimen we then saw, as also from having minutely watched their subsequent labour, I am not inclined the least to doubt the truth of what he told me, however exaggerated it may appear. Moreover, to ensure the due attendance of the fair dancellas of the needle, it had been customary to incarcerate a considerable portion

of them every evening in a species of honourable confinement, being unable to trust to the promises of their returning to such severe labour in the morning. It may not, however, be improbable but that some of my readers have been, ere this, gratified with a sight of the dress itself; in which case, they may have the satisfaction of knowing that they have seen the handsomest, as well as the most expensive, ever worked in Manila, perhaps in the world. The handkerchiefs cost sixty dollars each—a curious circumstance, where, in this cheap country, a whole family can live well, for three or four dollars a month.

A standing army of 8000 men is constantly kept up, and they have five excellent bands of music, which play alternately almost every evening, on one or other of the plazas or alamedas, where there is generally a very numerous attendance of ladies, both on foot and in carriages, the number of vehicles frequently exceeding 250, chosen from amongst the troops. The bandsmen are all Indians, who, naturally fond of music, are very susceptible of instruction, and having the benefit of French and Spanish

masters, arrive at an astonishing degree of perfection, and are by no means inferior to the best Europeans.

We had scarce been in Manila two days, when we were all invited to partake of an entertainment at the palace, which not only did great credit to the capitan-general's household arrangements, but evinced a spirit of cordiality which we were very glad to find existed towards our nation. In honour of our flag, at the close of the evening a large bowl of punch was introduced, and great astonishment was shewn at the difficulty they had in making us partake of it, fancying that it was the beverage we daily drank. Various healths were proposed, which we felt ourselves bound to respond to; thus the entire bowl soon vanished, not, however, before one etat-major and two captains, each with his tumbler, measured their lengths upon the slippery floor, whilst in the act of doing justice to the health of Maria Seconda.

Three or four o'clock is generally the hour of dinner, which is far the most preferable, in my opinion, in this climate. Every person rises immediately it is off the table, and

shortly before sunset carriages are in attendance, which proceed to the calsada, a fine broad road, leading nearly round the fortified town; on each side are a line of trees, which add very much to its beauty. Here may be seen every evening all the beauty, wealth, and fashion of Manila congregated together, numbering generally from 150 to 250 carriages; some few horsemen flit from one to the other, and remain longer or less time, according to the reception they meet with, either from the fair señoritas or from las dueñas, and which, in the latter case, as in most civilized countries, is generally measured out according to the fortune which the youth either possesses or is heir to. The fashion, however, is decidedly in favour of the carriage rather than the horse. The most part do not retire until it has become so dark, that the twinklings of their beautiful and piercing eyes can scarce be distinguished from those of the Indian cochero himself; some, indeed, still prolong their drive considerably later. A custom, singular to a stranger, but which appeared to me very pleasing, was that, at the first tinkle of the vesper bell, every carriage

instantly halts, and many a pretty eye may then be seen raised in devotion to that Deity who has guided their fair forms safe through the intricate paths they have trod that day. All is as still as death; the pretty little hand quickly employed in devoutly signing the cross upon the breast and face, at the same moment repeating the following brief sentence:—"Por el señor de la Santa Crus de nuestro enemigo libra nos señor Deos noestro. En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Esperito santo. Jesus. Amen." At the last word the back of the thumb is placed to the mouth, and devoutly kissed; after which, the slightly disordered mantilla is replaced, the fan is opened once or twice, and as quickly shut, the coaches proceed, and the business of pleasure is discussed as freely as before. Opera there is none; neither is there any corrida de toros, nor bull-ring, the absence of which latter, so far, speaks well for the humanity of the people. Each village, however small, contains a cockpit, and each peasant, however poor, possesses a fighting-cock, which on no account will he ever stir without; thus almost every third person that you meet in

the street has a fine bird under his arm, and in each canoe may always be seen one or more. Attached to their leg is a piece of cord, with a peg, which, as occasion requires—either work, devotion, or pleasure—they drive into the ground; thus, occasionally many may be seen at a time, ready to tear each other to pieces, either outside a wine-shop or a church.

Towards the close of our first week, the capitan-general placed at our disposal two large government feluccas, for the purpose of visiting the lakes in the interior of the island. Accordingly, on the evening of the 17th of December, having dispatched these boats up the river about twelve miles, the stream being strong, causing thereby much delay, we proceeded, after an early dinner, to a place eight miles distant, called Guadaloupe. The road lay through a rich and fertile country, paddy-fields just ready for the sickle, each being divided by a hedge of bamboo or other plant, giving to the whole country a very pleasing appearance, particularly to us, who had been accustomed to see on the banks of the Canton river and Yang-tse-kiang an endless sea of rice, without a tree to break the view or relieve the

eye. We passed through a very pretty town, called Santa Anna, which was composed almost exclusively of Indian houses; these are invariably raised five or six feet from the surface of the ground, upon poles, or would otherwise be very unhealthy from the humidity of the climate. They are built of strong rafters of wood, the intermediate spaces being filled up with matting; the roof is very pointed, in order that the tropical showers, which here fall in the summer months in a perfect deluge of rain, may be carried off the more readily. In about one hour we reached Guadaloupe, the church of which small pueblo* is prettily situated on a rising piece of ground, overlooking the surrounding country. Here we found some bancas or canoes, which we had dispatched in the morning, awaiting our arrival. It was now dark, and the first voyage in one of these frail vessels is rather a nervous business; they are scooped out of one tree, sometimes thirty or forty feet long, and not more than two broad; at the bottom is placed a cane-flooring, and over-head a mat covering, as shelter both from sun and rain. Four or six men sit in the bows, with

* Village.

their backs to the passengers, each with a wooden shovel in his hand, and one as steersman, is placed in the stern with a like implement, for the double purpose of propelling the boat, as well as directing her course. On each side, about twelve or fifteen inches outboard, is attached a piece of thick bamboo, running nearly the whole length; this considerably assists her stability, for as soon as she may, from any sudden inclination to starboard or port, appear to be in the act of making a summerset, the buoyancy of these outriggers, on coming in contact with the water, prevents her from heeling further over. Two or three of our party, which in all numbered nearly twenty, got into each of these canoes, and proceeded to a town called Pasig, about three or four miles higher up the stream; it was so dark we could scarce see either bank. We passed two curious spots, and which, on our return, we had an opportunity of observing; one, St. Nicholas Point, where stands an old building, said to have been erected by the Chinese inhabitants, to propitiate the river-god, which, in the form of a gigantic crocodile, was asserted by them

On Stone by B. Clayton.

Drawn by General Brown.

VIEW OF PASIY IN THE ISLAND OF MANILA.

Saunders & Otley, Conduit St.

intended to do some bodily harm. The second, a subterranean passage, the entrance to which may be seen from the banks of the river, and said to lead to a town some miles in the interior; it is, moreover, stated to be the habitation of a demon, to whom propitiatory offerings were constantly made. The catholic priests, either shocked at the idolatry of this, or perhaps thinking that all offerings should come to them alone, had lately given directions that the mouth of the cave should be built up, since which time nothing has transpired regarding its inhabitants. Our entrance into the town of Pasig was a species of triumphant procession; the padres, having received intimation of our approach from Don Crispon, who accompanied us, determined to shew us all the kindness and civility in their power. We were met at the landing place by crowds of boys, very nicely dressed, carrying torches, and little Indian girls, with wreaths of flowers, brandishing small flags, singing and dancing, who accompanied us to the Casa del Cura,* where fireworks, rockets, and small cannon were discharged on all sides.

* Vicarage.

We found a handsome supper prepared for us, with three intelligent elderly padres ready to do the honours. Having remained in Pasig about two hours, we again embarked the greater portion of our number in the feluccas; I made one of a small party in the bancas, being desirous of a voyage for the first time, and perchance for the last, in a canoe. We spread our mats and beds, comfortably upon the bottom of the boat, and silently, though swiftly, were propelled into the lake. I soon fell asleep. About the middle of the night I awoke, finding the boat tossing about in a most disagreeable manner, and upon inquiry ascertained that in consequence of a heavy strong breeze upon the lake, it was thought requisite by the boatmen to return, and await the daylight behind a point of land, in a small island, called Tahim: to this we made no objection. By daylight on the following morning, we were rapidly crossing a large arm of the lake, called Rinconado, and approaching an hacienda, or country farmhouse, occupied by a Frenchman of the name of Vidie, who received us in the most hospitable way, giving us plenty of coffee,

with fresh milk. I may here mention that the best Manila coffee is considered by many superior to Mocha; it is certainly far the finest I ever tasted. The village in which this hacienda is situated is called Hala-hala, and is perhaps the prettiest we saw upon the lake. Crowds of Indian women were bathing upon the banks, and washing their children, displaying forms which might be the envy of many a fair European. The chapel bell was tinkling for the early mass, and everything wore an appearance of quiet and serenity, which can only be understood by those who have experienced the pleasurable feeling of the half-hour prior to sunrise within the tropics, before that mighty orb arises, which soon dispels all cool and refreshing vapours with his fierce and scorching gaze.

Before we should reach Santa Cruz, to which place the rest of our party had already, in the feluccas, preceded us, we had still a large arm of the lake to cross, called Baya-Baya, where, during the northerly monsoon, almost every day at mid-day, a strong breeze blows, thereby causing a considerable swell, which, in such frail barks, it was anything

but pleasant to enounter. We, without loss of time, again bid our kind host adieu, and stretching to the southward, soon rounded this point. We found that in our expectations regarding the wind we were not deceived, for a smart puff had already come on. Having three or four shots at a gigantic *iguana*, which, however, we did no succeed in killing, we crossed over Baya-Baya with only a slight ducking, and, skirting the opposite shore, at 2 P.M., found ourselves in Santa Cruz. Most of our party were taking their siesta, after a breakfast, to which they had done ample justice, in the house of the magistrate; and speedily I followed so good an example. While in the bancas I had an opportunity of witnessing that which I had often heard of in savage life—I mean the act of causing ignition by the friction of two pieces of wood, one against the other; and though so simple in appearance, I was assured it required considerable practice and dexterity to accomplish; one of the boat's crew, taking two pieces of rough wood previously well dried in the sun, after a few minutes of constant friction, he ignited them. Prior to dinner,

which was served at five, we visited the cockpit, where, it being Sunday, we found a large assemblage of people. We remained during two or three encounters, which differed but little from those in our own country, excepting that each cock was provided with but one spur, and that somewhat in the form of a sword; with which weapon they contrived, however, very speedily to despatch one another. A large number of dollars passed hands upon the occasion amongst the villagers. I took up my abode at the convent, placing myself under the care of a comely padre, the vicario of the district. A handsome entertainment was served up at the house of the judge in the afternoon, to whose cookery we did ample justice; but the Spaniards continually expressed their surprise at our eating so little, having been given to understand that a sirloin of roast beef was but a small portion of what was daily consumed by *un Senor Inglese.*

CHAPTER XX.

Cocoa-nut trees — Cocoa-nut brandy — Hot springs — Crocodiles—Hodgson's pale ale—Pasig—Horseflesh—A taylor's revenge—Ferry-boat—Indian robbers—Start for San Mateo—Canoes—The blood-hound—Buffaloes—Indian fête—Magellan—Hospitality.

We arose early on the succeeding morning, having a long day's work in store for us. My good host, the padre, was up before us, having been employed since 4 A.M. in saying mass, during which, a petedero, or small cannon, was discharged, every ten minutes, directly below my room, militating considerably against any chance of over-sleeping myself. A large cup of chocolate, with sweet cakes, followed by a cigar, occupied a quarter of an hour, during which time the

carriages were got ready. By six, we were on our road to Paxanhan, the capital of the lakes, and the province of Tayabas. In this season of the year (December), during the night, and a short time after sunrise, the earth is visited by refreshing showers, which, followed by the heat of the sun in the middle of the day, cause a vegetation almost incredible to spring up. Our road lay through immense groves of cocoa-nut trees, estimated at a value of four dollars each. They are not only a large source of profit to the owners of the soil, but render a considerable sum to the government, a duty being placed upon a species of wine made from their milk, the making and selling of which, is a government monopoly; it is commonly used throughout the island, being much cheaper than any foreign spirit. The husks of the cocoa-nut are also useful in making mats and cords, but the wood of the tree itself is of no great value, being spongy and brittle.

Again our party were received with great honour—flags, music, a guard, &c. We waited, until a slight shower had ceased, when we started to see the cascades in the

river, about two miles distant. Embarking in small canoes, we ascended rather a sluggish stream, between high banks, clothed with most luxuriant vegetation until we reached a rapid, when suddenly, at a turn of the river, a scene broke upon our view, grand and sublime beyond description. Perpendicular banks of rock rose on either side to the height of two hundred or more feet; creepers and evergreens occupying every crag and fissure; the summit crowned by trees of a gigantic size; from the roots of most of these, descended, even to the water's edge, long straight shoots, resembling ropes, which enabled them, by a process of suction, to draw up a cool draught of the pure liquid below. Many enormous eagles were describing circles over head, surprised at our temerity in disturbing their tranquil resort, while the rushing and tumbling of the water, together with an occasional shot, fired by one of our party, resounding from crag to crag, broke the awful stillness of the scene. The task performed by our boatmen—that of pushing us up these rapids, by no means an easy one, was, after some perseverance, even-

tually accomplished. Having admired for some time this beautiful scenery, the cry for breakfast resounded on all sides. On our descent, one of the bancas was capsized in the midst of a rapid, but happily the fortunate occupants escaped with but a ducking, the loss of a watch and spy-glass. Dejeune and siesta being duly performed, we walked to a slight eminence overlooking the town, from which a large portion of the lake came under our view; we soon perceived that a map in the office of the Alcalde had been got up without the slightest regard to the due position of the rivers, or lake, &c., but which, although he had been some years holding the office, he had never yet discovered, and seemed deeply disgusted on our doubting its correctness, nor would he allow it to be so, although ocular demonstration, from the position we then held, positively proved the fact. We also visited the cocoa nut brandy manufactory in the town, and, after a second most sumptuous entertainment, returned to Santa Cruz, the padre vicario giving me a seat in his own carriage, which the reader will readily imagine was by no means the least comfortable con-

veyance of the party. I discovered that while we were at the Cascades, he had enjoyed himself fully as much, to his own satisfaction, as we did to ours, having been engaged the greater portion of the day in the game played with cards called "Monté," with some brethren of his own cloth, whom he had happily met in the town. On arriving at the convent, he quickly summoned his domestics by a shrill whistle, perhaps somewhat more after the fashion of a smart boatswain's mate, summoning all hands to reef topsails than the quiet tinkle of the silver hand-bell, generally used by foreign ecclesiastics. Delicious aqua diente de Anisette was speedily set before us, with a bundle of capital cheroots; and I am fain to confess the evening's entertainment bore no relation to breviaries or aves.

The rats, which had clearly taken possession of a considerable portion of the building, were too numerous to allow me to sleep well, squeaking and dancing about the room all night. On the following morning, we again started with the feluccas, it having been decided that we should visit the lower part of the lake, ere we should place our-

selves once more under the care of the padres of Pasig. We accordingly stretched over to Los Baños. The object of interest here was a stream of very hot water, which was falling into the lake, to the extent of some hundred gallons a minute, the heat of which was intense; and, upon examination, we discovered it to be highly impregnated with sulphur. Some baths had been built for the benefit of those who chose to make use of them; the best, however, had been destroyed by a gradual rising of the waters, which has taken place for some years, and which has caused considerable alarm to the inhabitants of the capital, for should this enormous mass break its bounds, it would sweep all before it, and the whole towns of Manila and Santa Cruz, together with its environs, would possibly be swept into the sea—which *trifling* circumstance the Chinese are very fond of predicting. Near to Los Baños is a small lake, said to be the mouth of an old crater, the whole country being volcanic; the waters of this, from having no outlet, are stagnant and putrid. It is the great haunt of crocodiles, which abound here, some of our party

having frequently seen them; we, however, were not at this visit sufficiently fortunate to do so. The Indians have a great terror, perhaps with good reason, of these reptiles, and some time since, a large number of the inhabitants of the island of Talim arrived in Pasig, declaring that their village had been taken possession of by so gigantic a monster of this species, that they could never return, nor would they do so until it had been visited by one of the most influential of the padres, accompanied by a number of his brethren, who, having duly exorcised the beast with prayers, penance, and fasting, (for which no doubt they received a handsome gratuity,) the people at last consented to take possession once more of their huts.

Not far from hence, about twelve months since, a friend of my own who was visiting the neighbouring mountains, in search of the picturesque, met with a rather singular adventure, which was very nigh ending in a tragedy. Himself and companion had wandered rather far from the usual track, and being exceedingly exhausted, they contrived,

without much difficulty, to dispose of one or two bottles of Hodgson's pale ale, with which they had come provided. Being encumbered with more of this grateful beverage than they could conveniently carry, but still anxious to proceed, they threw one or two more bottles into a neighbouring ditch, little imagining what serious consequences this action, in the sequel, would occasion to them. Having enjoyed the view of the particular spot they had toiled to see, and already some distance on their return, they were rudely seized by a number of half-armed savages. My friend, an older soldier than his companion, was contented to make such resistance only, as a good oaken stick would enforce: his younger comrade, unfortunately, being armed with a pistol, fired it at the nearest of the party, whom he slightly wounded. This rash act was immediately retaliated by a severe cut on the hand from a machet or large knife which he received in defending his head, from the effects of which he had no chance of ever entirely recovering. Both were then bound, and led to the nearest village, where they were placed in confine-

ment in the cura's house, regarding more in this respect their own safety, than as an annoyance to them. After two days of suspense and anxiety, they were released and sent to the capital. Upon strict inquiry, it turned out that as the cholera was raging at the time, these poor ignorant people, always ready to ascribe any evil which befals them to some foreign cause, fancied that this dreadful scourge had been implanted into the island by these strangers, and declared that there could be no doubt of their having visited their district for the sole purpose of poisoning the springs, having themselves discovered some of the bottles full of a bitter mixture, which had been placed there for the purpose, but which, upon being tasted and smelt, was anything but a wholesome beverage. Such was their opinion of the pale ale. I am happy to be able to add, that the capitan-general took the matter up with much spirit, and only a few days prior to our arrival, the man who had been foremost in committing the outrage was tried, and garotted near the scene where this circumstance occurred.

At Los Baños, as elsewhere, the cheerful

cura's board was spread, the village musicians were called out, indeed, throughout, our visit resembled more a triumphal procession than quiet sight-seeing, so determined were all to do honour to the great strangers whom, they were pleased to add, had lately conquered China. With a stiff breeze from the north-east, we again struck into the lake, and reached our starting place, Pasig, just at sunset. We could not help admiring both the crew of the felucca, and the way in which she was managed. I believe, indeed, that as far as gun-boats are concerned, no nation understands them better than the Spanish. As usual, a large dinner, given by the curate, here awaited our arrival, and numberless comfortable beds were also prepared for us. The next day, a portion of our party visited the coleglio, many of which exist in the different pueblos; they are principally for girls, who are allowed to enter when young, and to remain as long as they like: and if very poor, pay nothing whatever for either board, education, or clothing. They are taught embroidery, and other feminine employments. The expense of these establishments is defrayed by

the rents of various estates, which have been bequeathed for this purpose. I profited by the occasion of our stay to be introduced to some very nice Mestigga families, amongst whom were some most beautiful young ladies—one in particular, named Clarenza, sister to a handsome fellow, Ambrosio, who had kindly attended us in our bancas on the lake. These Mestiggas, on their father's side, not unfrequently claim relationship to the oldest families of Spain, and are consequently not a little proud of the blood which flows in their veins. I was much amused on my subsequent visit to India, at finding the pedigree upon this point so carefully distinguished. A young lady at a ball being described as possessing four annas of native blood, while another had no less than twelve. This comparison bears a comprehensive scale, there being sixteen copper annas to each of John Company's Rupees. We at length left, and I will add, with much regret, the neighbourhood of the lakes. In less than two hours, under the united influence of a strong current and the sinewy arms of five or six bancieros, we reached the city of Manila. Each

bank of the river was thickly occupied by houses and inhabitants. Immense quantities of poultry are here reared in a manner differing widely from that commonly adopted in Europe, having been assured that the art of hatching eggs is constantly practised, and with the greatest success, by the young people of both sexes, who, for the sake of gain, do not scruple to resort to this tedious and, to say the least of it, somewhat monotonous employment. A late author, in his *published* account, in the Spanish language, of Manila, has stated that it not unfrequently happens that birds build their nests in the horses' tails. In common with some other of his readers, I cannot give implicit confidence to all he states, and I must not, therefore, quarrel if the same liberty is taken with mine; but I here beg to say, that I had not an opportunity of witnessing the hatching process. I, however, do not scruple to allow my own implicit faith in the account, having received it from the most undoubted authority. I cannot say that I ever remember having enjoyed a trip, of three or four days, more, if so much, as this one; I should much like to have extended it as far

as Maquila, where there is a volcano, which was then constantly emitting flames, from the neighbourhood of which may be seen the Pacific Ocean; but our time was limited, and to have done so, we must have broken up, and divided our party, a thing we were all unwilling to do.

A ride in the vicinity of the city, a siesta during the noon-day heat, a round of dinner parties, and a drive on the Calsada in the evening, finishing the night either by attending some tertulia, or the theatre, which latter, although it is only built of bamboo and mats, yet from being kept clean and well white-washed, has a very pleasing appearance, and always well attended; these were the occupations of some few succeeding days. At the morning rides, according to the received custom in India, not much attention was paid to dress, the object being to start even before sunrise, to return, if possible, ere it has assumed any great degree of heat; much time would consequently be lost were a lengthened toilet previously to take place. On one occasion an English officer of no little note, dressed, as was his custom, in a white jacket

and pith hat, and a pair of flannel inexpressibles, observed rather a fine building at some distance, which he soon ascertained to be the cavalry barracks. Being an excellent judge of a horse, and, in former days, a first-rate hand across country, he determined, if possible, to see them. Meeting an officer, he asked if he could see their horses, and permission was readily granted to that effect. When nearly all the stables had been gone through, and the 400 or 500 little animals duly examined, the name of the elderly gentleman who criticised with such knowing accuracy the merits of each one, was politely requested. Picture, then, the look of the astonished subaltern, when he was informed that this gentleman, though in so homely a garb, was no less a person than the commander-in-chief of all H.B.M.'s navies in the East — his exclamations of surprise being not more elicited at his rank than at the superior judgment he had evinced in his knowledge of horseflesh.

Two handsome balls were given, which were attended, particularly the second, by all the beauty and fashion of Manila; and certainly, the lovely faces and voluptuous

forms displayed on these occasions, could be surpassed in no part of the world. The first of these balls was given by an English resident, Mr. D——, and I am sorry to say, ended in rather a tragic manner. A worthy competitor for the fame of Baron Stultz had the audacity, uninvited, to invade the hallowed precincts of what every Englishman is pleased to surname his castle, and to engage the attention of some of the fair. Mr. D., with perhaps somewhat more fortiter in modo than suaviter in re, ejected the intruder by kicking him down stairs, who instantly set up a most fearful roaring, and, declaring very loudly he was dead, he procured the assistance of some Indians to carry him home. The business by no means ended here; for on the following afternoon Señor D., was led off to prison, a junta of the worthy disciples of Esculapius having got the tailor into their clutches, signed a declaration to the effect that his life was in imminent danger. On our return towards England, we ascertained that this tragic affair ended, as most things of the kind do in Spain, by the payment of a sum of money, which, in this instance, was rather exor-

bitant; added to the expenses of the process, doctors' fees, bribes, &c., it cost the hasty gentleman between two and three thousand dollars, receiving more pity than condolence from his friends upon the occasion.

Being slightly indisposed by the continued festivities we had to undergo, I had occasion one day to call in the assistance of a medical adviser; judge my surprise when I ascertained that his visit was to be made a matter of secrecy, the senate having decreed that no foreigner should practise in the island under the following penalties—to be fined, for the first visit, 27 dollars; the second, 500 dollars; the third 1000 dollars; and moreover, to be turned out of the island. An English gentleman of considerable eminence, who had been long resident there, delayed his departure after this decree had passed, until the two first penalties had been inflicted upon him, and had only escaped the third by decamping from the island, a few days prior to our arrival, having determined to settle at Shanghae, in the north of China. Medical science has, therefore, not much chance of a rapid progress in Luconia; and I entreat any friends

who follow me in a visit to the island, by no means to fall sick there, for God help them through the hands of the medicos they may call to their assistance. We were well repaid in an excursion of two days, by a visit to the caves of St. Manteo, distant from Manila about seven or eight leagues. We started in the afternoon, in the small light phaeton carriages generally used in that country. They hold but two persons, have a head to keep off rain and sun, and possess a curtain of leather at the back, which is closed or opened at pleasure, enabling a free current of air to pass through. About a league from the town we came to a ferry; the boat was constructed of bamboos, laid crossways over three or four bancas, and covered with strong matting. This was drawn from side to side by a single rope, a dry shoot of the creeping bamboo, which, for lightness as well as durability, is unequalled, and in this case could not have measured less than sixty yards. There was also a small ferry boat for foot passengers, in which several persons were at the time crossing, almost every individual being accompanied by his

fighting-cock, and two youths on the opposite bank, who were waiting for the return of the boat, were diverting their idle moments by a main of cocks, having staked the price of a passage across the stream upon the result.

We did not arrive at the hacienda, where we had agreed to take up quarters, until after dark. Some of our party were previously rather alarmed at seeing a large number of Indians skulking under a hedge, as, a few days before, some people returning from the capital had been stripped to the skin on a neighbouring road, and two of the younger females of the party had suffered the extreme of violence by the hands of these ruffians. The only satisfaction which I understood they received from the alcalde, was "que lastima!"—what a pity! and had we lost our watches and purses, I very much question if we should even have been so far consoled. We found another party occupying one wing of the building, and as is the familar custom of the country, we gave them buenas noches, or good evening to you, and speedily introduced ourselves. We found them to consist of an elderly dame, two handsome young

women, and a beautiful girl of about twelve years of age, besides two young men, one of whom was looked up to in the light of lover to the second daughter; the other had the higher and happier fortune of addressing the elder by a still dearer and tenderer claim—in all, they appeared a pretty and interesting family group. When we entered, the elder and married sister was reclining with her young one in a grass hammock swung in the centre of the room, almost touching the ground, one tiny foot alone exposed, with which she occasionally struck the floor, thereby giving to their couch a gentle and pleasing movement; nor was she the least disturbed by the presence of the "estrangeros Ingleses." Stopping an instant to exchange a courteous greeting, she soon again commenced the see-saw motion we had for an instant interrupted.

Both of the young men were natives of Cadiz, and neither of them seemed at all to disrelish the exchange they had made in leaving their own distracted country for a happy and peaceable one, in which quiet and plenty were to be met with on all sides; and where a far better chance of swinging out their

existence in a grass hammock was open to them, rather than a way by no means uncommon in their unhappy country, the cord of the republican demagogues. After supper and a song, we retired early to rest, preparatory to the fatigues we calculated we should have to endure on the morrow. We rose before daylight, swallowed the refreshing *tasa de chocolate*, lit our cigars, and were soon again on the road to San Mateo. Passing through a rich and varied country, the town of Mariquinas, and fording two or three rivers, we arrived about eight A.M. at the village of San Mateo. Our first business was to visit the cura, and beg him to order a banca; although he was already prepared to say mass in the neighbouring church, he did not scruple at putting it off for half an hour to talk to the Ingleses, during which time the boat was got ready. We gave him our thanks for his trouble; and on descending the stairs, I saw a pair of black eyes, which, from some hints I overheard, I fancy had not come to the good cura's house for the sole purpose of absolution, besides two or three nicely dressed little mestizos, who I fear had as strong a right to claim

the protection of their bodies equally with their souls from the good padre.

On examining the canoe, we found it twenty feet long and scarce two feet broad, which will be allowed was a close fit for five pretty stout Englishmen, one interpreter, and four boatmen. Moreover, it was unprovided with the usual bamboos to support it on either side, or with a cover to protect us from the sun's rays, which by this time were fierce, and which there was every chance we should be obliged to endure during the whole day. Both of these in some way were speedily provided. It fell very far short of a Pasig banca, but such as it was we were obliged to use it, or lose all chance of visiting the caves.

During these preparations, we amused ourselves by observing the numerous groups of women and children who came to the stream at the spot we were to embark from, being both the public bathing and washing place of the village. They intermixed in these pleasurable occupations without regard to age or sex, invariably being clothed as decently, and almost as completely, as on shore, their fine black hair being allowed to

stray. Each in her turn having washed the bundle she brought with her, returned with as large a quantity of fresh water as she could carry in her pail.

We did not take any guns with us, not expecting to be repaid for the trouble they might occasion; for although game, in the shape of deer, I believe to be plentiful in some parts of Manila, the chase requires both time and trouble—the first of which we did not command, and the second in that climate we were not over willing to bestow; there was no person, moreover, to put us in the way of it, as Los Señores Castillanos, I had every reason to believe, are no better sportsmen in the east than in the west, and keep no establishments for the purpose. That fine breed of blood-hounds, originally kept for the more distinguished sport, formerly so universally practised by the Spaniards, of hunting men, may yet be seen in this island, imported, I should suppose, from South America; their sense of smell is something marvellous. A gentleman resident had a fine animal of this breed, in whose care he had placed two terrier pups, to be brought up with a small litter of her

own. According to common custom, after the lapse of some days, he ordered their ears and tails to be cropped; but no sooner had she scented the blood, and found by the keenness of her smell that they were not her own, than she instantly destroyed them, although previously she had attended them with the same solicitude as her own pups.

The banca being now prepared, about half-past nine we crammed ourselves in; and, under the vigorous sinews of our boatmen, made astonishing way against a smart stream, which was flowing rapidly from the mountains. We soon passed the chateau of a Spanish gentleman, whose remarkable trait was, that of having repeatedly cheated some English merchants out of their dollars. At each succeeding turn of the river, we came upon parties washing and bathing, besides numerous bands of fishermen, who, it being Sunday, had turned out to divert themselves after mass in this innocent recreation. Each were standing on small bamboo rafts, propelling themselves up the stream with a long pole, at the extremity of which was a barbed tripod. With this they constantly struck at, and nearly as

often caught, a good sized fish resembling the white mullet. Numerous herds of water-bullocks, or buffaloes, almost amphibious, were refreshing themselves in this cooling stream; many of them we were obliged to disturb to enable us to proceed. Occasionally, we came to some small rapids, but neither was there difficulty, much less danger, in their ascent. At length, after four hours of very severe toiling on the part of our men, and broiling on that of ourselves, we entered a mountain gorge, to which we had for some time been gradually approaching. Save and except a slight rushing of the stream over an occasional obstruction, everything now bore the stillness of death. The atmosphere, pent up within the over-hanging cliffs, was sultry to an excess; the birds had all gone to their siesta;—indeed, it was only fit for mad dogs and Englishmen to be abroad in. The boatmen, with famished look, appealed to us for pity to release them, if but for ever so short a time, to their meal and repose; but well knowing, from past experience, how long that would take, we were obdurate, and bade them proceed. At length, about

two o'clock, the stream getting so shallow, we were fain obliged to disembark, and finding four stout fellows, each provided with his large Indian knife, we enlisted them into our service, and proceeded through a path evidently but little used, the curiosity of the Spaniards having been generally well satisfied with a recital, without any ocular demonstration, of the wonders we were led to suppose we were about to visit. After two miles' walk, we were told the caves were situated immediately in front of the spot we then occupied. Crossing the stream, now narrow, was rendered easy by the quickness of the natives, who, cutting down some young trees, speedily constructed a bridge, by which we passed over without so much as wetting a shoe. Fifteen minutes' toil up a steep bank, through brushwood and over rock, the path being cleared by the machettes of our guides, gained us the entrance, where we rested awhile. Our flambeaux, with which we had provided ourselves at San Mateo, being lit, we then proceeded cautiously, one after the other, receiving instructions from our guides to be most particular not to place our hands

upon any of the projecting rocks, as numberless snakes of the most deadly nature infested each nook and cranny; and on no account to allow our feet to slip, as to no pool of water which we came to, had any bottom ever been ascertained.

In this situation, we carefully struggled on for some distance, occasionally meeting with lofty chambers, stalagmites, stalactites, &c., so common to all limestone quarries, of which this evidently was one. Having some years before visited the caves of Michaelstone, I could not help drawing comparisons, which I am bound to say, were very much in favour of "Ould Ireland." At length, some one of our party, possessing, perhaps, more moral courage than the rest, proposed a retreat, which, I am quite sure, had been the uppermost thought of every individual for some time past, from the greedy avidity with which the notion was seized upon. We were not long in reaching its mouth, once more breathing the free air and enjoying the light of heaven. The old English custom of scratching the name upon the stones was not omitted. I have always had a pleasure in looking at

the memorials of those who have gone through toil and difficulty; and, I must say, that it has given me as much satisfaction to read the name of a dear friend on the lofty summit of the mosque of Adrianople, the Seraskier tower at Constantinople, or the Paramid Gyzer, as, perchance, it may some day be to read the names of those English who first had the honour of placing theirs in the upper story of the Porcelain Tower.

The excitement of our visit being now abated, I am not ashamed to say I felt immeasurably fatigued, the effect of the sun beginning to tell; added to which, we had started altogether unprepared with any sustenance to the outward man; and, save and except one cup of chocolate, we had tasted nothing, nor had we any chance of doing so until our return. We, therefore, had the less compunction in interrupting our boatmen over their frugal meal of rice and kabobs. Once more having crammed ourselves into the tiny craft, shooting the rapids, we proceeded at a far different pace down to what we had come up. The sun now had lost its fierceness, and the evening

was truly delicious; the only thing we had to complain of was want of dinner. I am, however, confident that we were enabled to go through the fatigues of the day with infinitely less discomfort, and to feel no bad after-effects, owing principally to this cause. About six, we again reached the padre's dwelling; and I never shall forget the relish of a glass of Xeres and a biscuit. The horses were soon put to our vehicles, and in an hour and a half we were safely lodged at Don Truxo's house at Mariquinas, where, under the directions of a worthy Portuguese doctor, Don Negrao, an excellent repast was provided for us, to which, as the reader will readily imagine, we did ample justice. Although so tired, hearing there was an Indian fête in the village, not distant more than a mile, I could not resist the temptation of proceeding there. We found each house lighted up, as well as the cathedral, and numerous bands of music parading the streets, accompanied by all the beauty and fashion of the pueblo, as well as many from Manila itself, who had come out for the double purpose of enjoying the purer air and bathing, as well as spending their

Christmas festivities in the country. We joined one of these parties, and in a few minutes were no longer considered strangers. An evening tertulia, singing, and serenading, concluded the night's entertainment. We returned to Manila on the following morning at daylight, and learned, to our great regret, that, on the preceding evening, a splendid entertainment, ball, supper, &c., had been given to the admiral and general by their kind host, Señor O——, which we had lost, and thereby the best chance we should ever have of seeing the most *recherchée* of the Manila beauties. However, there existed now no remedy but to chew the cud of our disappointment in silence.

Two days subsequent to our return, a grand entertainment was provided to do honour to the illustrious guests. The holy friars of the order of St. Augustine having invited our whole party to an entertainment, they proposed to give at one of their country haciendas, distant ten miles up the river, in the direction of the great lagune. This was on Christmas day; perhaps it has fallen to the lot of few—indeed, unless he has been at Manila, it cannot have occurred

to any one—to eat two Christmas dinners on different days in the same year. Strange, however, as this may appear, it happened to us. I must, therefore, here explain that the good folks in Manila are not ironically, but positively a day later than the rest of the world. Magellan, the first European by whom the island was visited, made his way towards it by Cape Horn, or rather by those straits just inside Cape Horn, which bear his name; and as he thus went two-thirds, (or sixteen hours,) round the world towards the west, he, consequently, lost that number of hours of *light* during his passage, and calculated the day in Manila the same as if he had been in Old Spain. Owing to the small knowledge of science at that time *commonly* possessed, this calculation was never interfered with. Judge, then, the surprise of the captain and crew of that vessel who first visited the settlement from round the Cape of Good Hope, who, having only made eight hours easting, or one-third round the globe, and still calculating their days by the parent country, found themselves to be one day in advance of their friends and fellow-country-

men on the new settlement. Nothing short of a royal ordinance would now, however, make them change their day. This has never been given; and they now state they retain the old style in memory of the discoverer—the great Magellan. I have thus endeavoured to explain the mystery of the two dinners. Having eaten a most substantial one with the admiral, on ship-board, on the English Christmas-day, who, of course, retained, although anchored in the harbour, the European style,) I will now proceed with my reader to our dinner on shore on the Manila Christmas-day.

The capitan-general had signified his desire of calling in his own barge for both our chiefs, which he did about one o'clock. The feluccas were accompanied up the river by some very large bancas, containing bands of music, and gaily adorned with flags. In some of the boats were boys dressed in grotesque resemblances of deformed men and women. The river was covered with canoes of all sizes, which shot rapidly from side to side under the bows, the oars of our boatmen occasionally coming in contact, when these pigmy craft were upset. This,

however, appeared a portion of the day's entertainment; for no sooner were they overturned, than, with the utmost agility, in a few seconds, they righted and cleared their banca of the water, and were ready to repeat the same manœuvre a second time. The swiftness with which they propelled them exceeds belief, passing and repassing the barge manned by twenty stout men with the facility of an arrow shot by a bowman of Arden. On landing, a numerous band of goodly friars awaited our arrival, ushering the guests into the long and stately rooms of their country-house. Various entertainments were proposed—music, &c.; and, amongst the rest, a corps of Indian damsels exhibited their luxurious persons in the ancient dance of the country. There were, in number, eight; all of the pure Indian blood, save one—a mestiza, smaller, though not less beautiful than the rest, who took upon herself the office of leader in the movements. A low and plaintive air was struck up, to which their graceful forms kept time, gradually getting more or less animated, according to the placidity or vivacity of the accompaniment. These

entertainments concluded, a short period of rest was allowed either for the siesta or cigar; and about three o'clock dinner was announced. The table was laid with about fifty covers, and contained what might be termed a very handsome spread, demonstrating with perfect clearness that these pious fathers were as well conversant with the good things of this world as they were wont to instruct others to be of that which is to come. Toast and compliment followed in quick succession; and towards sun-down we took a sincere farewell of each other, retracing our steps to the capital. The San Augustine's brotherhood are the richest in Manila, and certainly appear to do great credit to their wealth; are most hospitable to strangers; the very kindest of landlords; and all over the country their estates are easily distinguished, from the order and regularity in which they are kept, and the prosperity of those dependent upon them. The secondo cabo M. General Crispon did not appear, however, to hold them in great estimation, saying, when questioned about them, "Mala gestes," "Mala gentes," "Ladrones demasiado

ricos;" moreover, stating they were well known to possess, buried under this convent, 20,000 crowns of gold, which, he said, had been wrung from the poor; but such is the force of opinion, and such the state of superstition under which these people labour, that, even in the midst of a revolutionary movement, there would be no danger whatever to the property of the priest. Scarce an Indian could be found who would possess sufficient moral courage, however ready he might be to cut the throat of his brother, to rob the padre.

Many of the friars of this order (San Augustine) greatly enrich their private purses by commercial speculations amongst their flocks; and during our stay in the Philippines, and shortly before, two or three instances occurred of their retiring into civil life, sending a vast number of dollars, through British agents, to Europe; with a prudence which they by no means lack, invariably choosing a safer depository than remitting it to their parent country, preferring to place it in the English funds or other northern securities.

To such an immense extent is the system

of selling absolution carried on in this island, that I was informed by an advocate of great respectability, that a certain bishop, who had been appointed by the home government for some service he had rendered to them, had, in the short period of two years, collected together, and remitted to Europe through an English firm, no less a sum than fifty thousand dollars. He then returned to Europe in a merchant ship, consigning his cassock to the waves as soon as he was out of sight of land, as many others cast aside their old friends who have assisted them in their prosperity as soon as they have no further need for their services. Sundry nominal nephews and nieces were, about the same time, despatched home, though generally in different vessels. Very few scruple to allow their being their own offspring; for the vow of celibacy—which they were, no doubt, obliged to take—is rigidly performed, as far as marriage ceremony was concerned, but I am afraid no further. The poor Indians of the Philippines may be accused—and, I believe, with justice—of being a priest-ridden people, but if being under the mild and paternal rule of such a set of men

of whose hospitality it is the constant custom of every class to partake, may be considered as a misfortune, lucky, indeed, are those who are so unfortunate. Doubtless many of their doctrines are erroneous, and the pageants, of which their church is both proud and fond, are often absurd and ridiculous, and may be scoffed at by those who from childhood have had instilled into them the essence and spirit of pure religion; but in their performance they advantageously employ both mind and body, imperceptibly leading the first to think of holy things by the exercise of the latter. At all events, the superfluous funds of the more careless classes are far better used in decorating a saint than in rioting and drunkenness, which, I am sorry to think is by no means uncommon in some of our own advanced and civilized communities.

CHAPTER XXI.

Belleguia — Quingoa — Convent of Malolos — Mass — A soldier-priest — Mode of salutation — Rope manufactories—Dockyard—Return to China—The Philippines —Barbarity—Insurrection—Executions—Influence of religion—Climate and soil—Productive colony—Manila sugar.

THE time of our stay was fast drawing to a close. The admiral was anxious for his despatches from England, the general to return to China; we were, however, all desirous of taking a hasty peep at the rich province of Balancan, of which we were constantly hearing so much. Accordingly, about ten at night, on the 28th of December, after a sumptuous entertainment at the house of the consul of the United States, we started, a party of twelve in six carriages, for that province. About one

league from the town, we were detained by a ferry, the passage-boat of which could only afford room for two carriages at the same time. By a bright moon, we discovered that a bridge was in the course of erection, which, on our return, a few days after, we saw was of stone, and promised to be both substantial and handsome. As we got further from the town, contrary to the general rule, but of which we had been previously informed, the roads became better every mile. The country, on account of the darkness, we could make but little of. Sleep very soon stole upon both myself and my companions, a failing to which I was generally accused of being a great adept. Having changed horses at a village called Marilao about three on the following morning, we arrived at the convent of Quingoa, and found good Padre Faustus awaiting our reception, having received previous intimation of our approach. With small ceremony we took possession of the dormitories pointed out to us, and soon were buried in the bosom of that benevolent father, Morpheus. Strains of music from the neighbouring chapel awoke us betimes in the morning;

when, quickly donning our morning wrappers, we found our way to a cool and refreshing stream, to the banks of which, as regular yearly pilgrimages of parties bent either on confession or pleasure are made as of the holy Mussulmans to the shrine of Mecca. Our heretical thoughts, I am afraid, partook entirely of the latter motive for going there.

Thus invigorated, and also by a species of double breakfast, we started for a neighbouring village, called Belleguia, where nearly all the straw hats and cigar-cases for which these islands are so famed are fabricated. As a matter of course, we drove to the Cura's house — a comfortable abode. Padre San Clemente, although but thirty-four years of age, was greatly troubled by the asthma, which scandal said he by no means improved by too free use of the juice of the grape, in which it was reported it was his wont to indulge. He certainly received our party in the most hospitable way; and not only made us partake of the finest and rich-savoured Moskatel wine which Andalusia ever produced, and the finest-

flavoured Bananas, but insisted on the acceptance of each individual member of our party of a plaited cigar-case and a straw hat of the neatest texture. He sent also for the head of the village, stating that if we could spare sufficient time to remain for one day in the neighbourhood, orders should be given for the attendance of one hundred negroes, and their chief, of a strange tribe, inhabiting a range of mountains at no great distance. These are a race totally distinct from the rest of the natives of the islands; some few we had already seen in the town, the bulk of whom they had never succeeded either in reducing entirely to subjection, or converting to Christianity, but whom they represented as still possessing the characteristics of the most savage tribes—subtlety and revenge, two padres in the neighbourhood having lately fallen victims to their animosity, for some supposed evils, which they had brought upon them. We were unfortunately unable to remain a sufficient time, which I the more regretted as it appeared to me almost incredible that such a race should exist not more than forty miles from the

capital of such a highly cultivated island, under the dominion of a nation who may justly be ranked amongst the very first in the art of colonization, having overrun, with such unvaried success, tens and tens of thousands of miles, with the sword in one hand and the cross in the other. Bidding adieu to our kind entertainer, we retraced our steps to Quingoa; the road was really beautiful, overhung the whole distance by the branches of gigantic mangoes, which were so thickly matted above us as scarcely to cause us any inconvenience whatever from the noon-day sun. The whole country appeared a perfect garden, each cottage being railed round with a bamboo fence, at the gate of which was a fixed cross, to which they

all looked with devout hope and reverence. Many, indeed, of the better sort of houses were built in the form of a cross, as was customary among our forefathers, and still is in great measure to build chapels.

The little boys and girls, as we passed, rushed from their houses to gaze upon us, shouting at the top of their lungs, putting us sadly in mind of that dear country, now pretty nearly our antipodes, while yet more tiny little imps, unlike the Chinese at their mothers' backs, or the Europeans at their mothers' breasts, were here sitting astride on their mammas' hips, with as much ease as a jockey sits a race-horse. The elder girls, generally employed near the door-way over a huge pestle of stone, with a mortar of hard wood, called the luzon—from which probably has arisen the name these islands sometimes bear—pounding thus, by manual labour alone, the corn into flour.

Recrossing the river, we once more entered the convent, and glad enough to rest for a short time. At six, P.M., the carriages were once more at the door, the order of the evening being a visit to the convent of Malolos. Notice having been previously sent

to the cura, of which we were ignorant, we were, ere we entered the town, somewhat surprised to find a large body of horsemen awaiting our arrival, mounted on very capital horses—some with black cocked hats—a part of our dress which, all over the globe, seems to be the peculiar envy of the Indian. These accompanied our string of carriages at a rapid pace into the town, where an immense concourse of people were assembled in the large square, ready to receive us, headed by a number of friars of the Augustine order. Salutations having been exchanged, we were ushered by the good fraternity towards the church, which was already crowded by a well-dressed multitude, and was handsomely lit up for the occasion; the organ commenced playing on our entry; the priests appeared in their handsomest robes; the gold and silver on the various altars shone with brightness. Not a word was uttered to break the stillness of the scene, and it was then easy to perceive that it was not magic, by which the minds of this rude and ignorant, yet peaceful people, could be so easily led away, or, as some would say, duped; for certainly

stronger and more cultivated minds, in my opinion, are oftentimes captivated by attractions far less seducing to the senses than high mass, when performed to an attentive audience. Plenty of opportunity was allowed to us to examine, at leisure, every portion of the building we might wish; the high altar was extremely handsome, being plated with thick coats of silver, of which metal all the huge candelabra were also formed; in the centre was placed an image, about twelve or fifteen inches high, which was stated to be solid gold, richly adorned with precious stones, its value was named at 30,000 dollars. This figure, together with nearly the whole of the rest of the valuables of the church had been presented by the former Cura, whose memory in consequence was held in devout reverence, and his portrait preserved with due care in the neighbouring sacristy. We next adjourned to the private dwelling-house of the cura, where, as usual, a large entertainment was prepared. This was by far the best house, more clean and neatly kept, and better provided, than we had yet seen, owing to the opulence of the cure, which was estimated at

8000 dollars per annum; whereas there was no other that we had yet met with which was of greater value than three or four thousand. The band in the court-yard struck up, and at the same time the merry waltz was duly executed on the shiny floor (under the same roof with the chapel) of the good padre's refectory. And let not this shock the prudery of some of my friends at home, for I can assure them that many of their daily sins, both of commission and omission, which are passed over either without comment, or perhaps light raillery, would here be looked upon with a far severer gaze; and the sluggard who was too lazy to attend early morning mass, or public devotions, would not, as at home, go from year to year without reproof, but, let his station be ever so high, would here very shortly meet with severe admonition, either for his carelessness or wilful inattention, and be summoned to the confessional.

The following day we arose early, on our return to Manila, having made arrangements to take a cup of chocolate at the house of a soldier priest, who, being somewhat of a strange character, it may be worth the

reader's while to hear a word about him. He resided scarce a league from Quingoa, therefore we soon reached his cure, where we were welcomed with all the cordiality we could desire, by a fine handsome man, of about forty years of age. It appeared that he had been a serjeant in one of the regiments of the line—had fought in many of the engagements against the Carlinos, and, finally, chance had sent him as one of the garrison to Manila. In his earlier days, he had received some instruction in the Latin tongue, and the life which was led by the rich Augustine friars suiting his taste far more than the chance of the field, with all the honour which he might thereby reap, he made interest to join their body; in this he was successful, and soon after obtained the cure where we found him. He was beloved by his flock, and much respected on all sides; and it was stated that at his festa, a rejoicing which is held once a year, at each town, a larger réunion was expected, for the triple purposes of prayer, absolution, and feasting, than at any other within the province. Four or five fine bloodhounds, of a rare breed, had full liberty to range through the

corridors, and were his especial favourites. I must say I was much pleased, and well repaid, at the slight detention it caused us; nor had we, on the score of good cheer, any cause of complaint, a better cup of chocolate never was cooked by the prettiest brunette Spain ever produced, than that which Father Buceti placed before us; but whether the skill which had been expended in its preparation had been the work of such fair hands or not, it was not for me to inquire. We were fortunate enough, as we went home, to find that a fair, in all its wonted activity and bustle, was taking place in one amongst the many towns we passed through. The peasants, on all sides, proceeding to the scene, were numerous, and many a pretty face and black eye were peeping out, partially shrouded under a coloured handkerchief—some on horseback, others on foot—the men almost invariably accompanied by their eternal companion, the game cock, under their arms, or attached to their waist by a small piece of cord—somewhat after the fashion, though not so noble as was the wont of our ancestry of old, when they sped to the chase or merrie-meetings, accompanied

by their companion and favourite—each his noble falcon on his wrist. The dress, or rather undress, of the children, is not unworthy of notice. In most countries it has fallen to my lot to visit, in which, either from the heat of the climate or the poverty of the inhabitants, however scant their clothing, it was invariably placed about the central portion of the person; the little bantlings of this island, however, are adorned with a black hat and a grass-cloth shirt, cut off close under the arm-pits; sometimes they can only muster one of these articles, some a hat, others a shirt; in any case they bear the appearance of being scantily clothed.

The greetings which we observed to take place amongst friends, on this occasion, was conducted upon such a novel form of etiquette that it must not pass by without a word. The French or Italian salutation is a kiss on either cheek; whilst the hearty shake of the hand is the pious privilege of an old friend in our own more unsophisticated isle. Here, however, it would be considered the height of ill-breeding and discourtesy, did either an old friend or

newly-introduced acquaintance neglect to rub their noses caressingly together, somewhat after the fashion, but with less apparent zeal than the negroes of Africa. The ceremony, however, is not concluded by this simple process, but each taking a leaf out of the canine register—sniffs and snuffles at his neighbour; and it is even gravely asserted that, once duly acquainted, they will readily, by this process, recognise their friends in the dark; though I cannot from personal experience inform my reader of the truth of this assertion.

About noon, we again reached the hospitable abodes of those princely Eastern merchants, with whom we were residing—neither are their palaces nor their welcomes, fortunately for us wanderers, few and far between—and were received with all the kindness and hospitality of a friendship of twenty years' standing.

By this time, we had seen the whole of the capital, with the exception, indeed, of the cathedral, which we then took an opportunity of looking at. Although handsome, it would not create any feeling of surprise amongst those who had been accustomed to

visit buildings of the same class in Europe, but was calculated, and very justly so, to create a feeling of wonder and awe, in the minds of those who possessed not the power of comparing it with other works of the kind.

In the vicinity of Manila are some extensive rope manufactories, and latterly a spirited American has set one up for its manufacture by steam; great competition therefore exists, and a strong desire on the part of each party to prove their own the best. The fleet in China requiring a supply, some of each was procured, and upon subsequent inquiries, I am happy to have it in my power to say that the universal opinion was in favour of that made by steam. This is so seldom the case, everybody being ready to cry out against the dumb, though powerful agent, towards Britain's greatness, that I am delighted to give it, as in this instance, a helping hand, however humble it may be.

P. P. visits, even in the most disagreeable places, painful both to make or receive, were at length the order of the day, which, particularly amongst so ceremonious a race,

were by no means to be neglected; a round of them were accordingly duly performed—some *in propria persona*, some more expeditiously by cards; and early on our first of January, 1844, upon the true "go ahead principle," we left the hospitable Manilanos, not only behind us on shore, but still in the year of Noestro Señor, 1843.

It was arranged that we should visit the dockyard, for many years of the greatest consideration in the East, and indeed now, I believe, the only one under this unhappy flag, in which they can still boast of constructing a vessel of war. One frigate which had been built about ten years previously, in this yard, was undergoing some small repairs, preparatory to a second trip to Europe, to take home the ex-capitan-general Ora. Indeed, in the blessed mutability of Spanish affairs, it was far from impossible but that she would also have to take home the present one. The Duke of Victory being chased from Spain, his friends, amongst which number Don Alcala was proud to call himself, could not reckon upon a day—indeed, about two months subsequently we met the new governor on his way out. At the dockyard at Cavite, we found every-

thing in very neat order, and considerable activity displayed, so far as the fitting out of a few gun-boats would require—a large flotilla of which very useful craft are constantly kept afloat to secure the island from the ravages of their rascally piratical neighbours of Borneo, the Celebes, &c., and more efficiently to enable them to secure their revenue duties upon tobacco—a government monopoly which is almost exclusively cultivated in the south and south-east portion of this island Luconia, and is brought to Manila by sea. The commandant was unremitting in his assiduous attentions—stating, that although to all appearance so large a quantity of splendid timber was to be seen in the Philippine group, yet that much of it, after a great deal both of time and money had been expended, proved, after a short seasoning, utterly useless, the heart, upon exposure, mouldering to the touch—"come polvor de tobacco," as he expressed it, or what we should call "dry rot."

Some of the timber, however, is valuable, being of gigantic proportions, very hard and close-grained. Señor O—— possesses a dining table nearly ten feet wide, twenty-five

feet long, and two inches thick, one single slab of wood. A very handsome piece was also shewn me in the Custom House, the property of the ex-capitan-general Ora, for the purpose of making a round table, the diameter of which could not be less than ten feet. Either of these pieces must have been cut from trees which measured thirty feet in girth. This is noways an extraordinary circumference for many of our English oaks, but there are few trees, however gigantic in measurement or appearance, that will produce such slabs of wood.

We thus completed, with a hasty inspection of the marine department of Manila, one of the pleasantest excursions I had ever the opportunity to enjoy.

Bidding a most hearty adieu to the kind and hospitable admiral under whose auspices we had gone there, we sailed, soon after nightfall, once more for China, H. M. S. Cornwallis starting at the same time, bound for Sincapore and the East Indies.

We returned in the fast-sailing Dido; the kindness and cordiality evinced to all those who were sufficiently fortunate to cruise in her, during her service in the East, being

too well known for me to attempt to eulogize, and in six days we reached Hong-Kong.

All that I have sufficient vanity to lay before those whom chance may cause to glance through my pages, is a "plain, unvarnished tale," of what fell under my notice when on that side the globe; to far abler heads, as well as more industrious pens, I leave a statistical account of the Philippines. I cannot however conclude my narrative, without one word relating to the people, their country, and their climate.

The natives of the soil appear with that ease so commonly met with in savage life, to have fallen into both the virtues and vices of their conquerors; their simple natures, as a matter of course being made a tool to be worked upon by their more crafty subjectors. This, however, seems to have been taken advantage of, far more for their good than evil. The happiness they enjoy being in strong contrast with the life which is led by the inhabitants of the neighbouring archipelago; who, although equally simple and inoffensive, their evil destiny has been to be overcome not by the followers of

our blessed Lord, but by the Malays—nearly all of whom are Mussulmans, from the island of Sumatra, or the Malay peninsula, and which race I verily believe sprang from Cain, and still retain his curse.

Labour or industry by no means forms a distinguishing trait in Philippine Indians; but this they certainly would never acquire from the example, however much they might do so from the precepts of their rulers. A kind and gentle spirit seems generally to influence their actions, which may be instanced in the few attempts at rebellion which have occurred since the first settlement of the colony.

Some attempts at disturbing the peace of the state occurred three or four years since, in a district, distant from the capital, which was put down with a relentless spirit of barbarity; this so intimidated them that they have not dared to make any future attempts. The degree of savage ferocity which was exercised towards these poor wretches is beyond belief, neither women nor children being more respected than men. The officer commanding the troops, is reported to have boasted of having shot, with his

own hand, in cold blood, a man who had omitted to take off his hat to him. Some allowance, however, must be made for the government authorities. The whole amount of officers and non-commissioned officers does not exceed 200, over an army of 8000 Indians. No little praise is therefore due to the late captain-general Ora, who had the boldness to quell the recent insurrection of 1842, ordering out these very Indian troops to fire upon ninety of their comrades, which order was executed by them with scarce a murmur or a word of dissatisfaction. I will here quote a few words from the Gazette published on the occasion:

"On the 5th of February upwards of eighty of the rebels were sentenced to die the death of traitors; forty-one were executed on the 9th and the others on the 11th inst., each day 7 A.M. The spectacle was most imposing and awful.

"The criminals, the day previous to their execution, were imprisoned in barracks in the neighbourhood of the artillery ground, accompanied by their confessors, and their executioners were placed as guards over

them. At about half-past six each morning, they were unshackled, having only their arms tied, and were marched between two files of soldiers (their executioners) to the ground, on which a large force was already stationed, consisting of about 3000 troops, forming three sides of a square. As the mournful procession approached, an officer proclaimed aloud to the troops, that whoever should ask for the pardon of any of the criminals, should be shot.

"The remainder of the regiment to which the criminals belonged, formed the bottom of the square, and behind them a strong body of cavalry was posted, before whom their late companions in arms, the mutineers, were led to hear their sentence read, which was quickly got over, and they were then marched up to the vacant side of the square, where they were placed in file, kneeling, in front of a hillock, used as an artillery butt; their executioners filed off behind them, and in an instant their bayonets were unfixed, the priests informed them that the hour had come, and the words—'Make ready—present—fire'—were given instanter; and the file of criminals simulta-

neously fell like a wall. There was scarcely the space of a yard between the muskets and their victims; many continued to writhe on the ground, but not a sound of any kind was heard save the order to reload, for no reserve was in readiness, and an agonizing delay was thus caused in finally despatching the unfortunate wretches.

"The troops fired in a running fire; no particular criminal was assigned, but they were ordered to fire at the one most in front.

"The same awful scene was performed on the 11th; and on that day the serjeant, who led the rebels at the insurrection, was strangled by the screwing machine, in the same square, and afterwards his right hand was cut off.

"So soon as it was evident that life was extinct in all the criminals, the various regiments were marched with music playing, past the bodies, and then home to their quarters.

"On the 9th, the criminals were placed close to each other, to suffer death, but on the 11th the more considerate method of

separating them a yard or two was adopted.

"Thus ended the rebellion of part of the 3rd regiment of the line."—*Canton Register*, 21st February, 1843.

This quiet spirit is much engendered by the influence of their religion, from the trammels of which they have no escape: a word from their spiritual instructors, having such influence with them as only to be seen to be properly understood. This is not so difficult to be accounted for; divided from the rest of the Christian world, as they are, by thousands of miles of sea, the rays of liberty have no power to enter their hemisphere, and indeed I think this a happy circumstance, during the misfortunes and difficulties of Old Spain. The dreadful enormities so constantly going forward in Central and South America would else be re-enacted here, and the harder the hand has been laid upon this priest-ridden people, the greater the reaction that will take place; the greater the ignorance which has been carefully fostered by priestly craft, the more fanatical, the more bloody the retribution upon those who have so long either hidden

entirely, or distorted, by visionary images that light from bursting upon them. One peculiarity, by no means common in any part of the East, is their fondness and aptitude for music. Scarcely the smallest town but what can boast of its band; and it certainly seemed rather singular in the mountains of this distant region to hear the latest Parisian waltzes and Italian operas.

As to climate and soil, perhaps few countries in the globe are so singularly blessed—the luxurious growth of every description of plant known within the tropics is proverbial, and the ease and beauty with which nature here repays the labour of man would alone be a sufficient cause for not calling forth his full energies, to struggle with difficulties where no difficulties are to be struggled with.

Speaking of the natural fertility of the soil, I was assured by a grave-looking señor, that in the province of Banlacan, which they always cite, when anything marvellous in the shape of fertility is alluded to, that even fish, of a very considerable size, grew in the paddy or rice-fields, and were at this

season commonly gathered by the peasantry; at the time, I laughed at the joke, and of course thought no more of it. On our return, however, from Quingoa, I inquired of my companion what the peasants were looking for in the wet paddy fields; he told me they were collecting fish, and accounted for it by saying that, by the overflowing of the rivers in the rainy season, the fields are flooded to a considerable depth, during which time the fish having free liberty to roam, leave their spawn, themselves retiring to the deep as the water recedes. The heat of the sun, causing everything, both animal and vegetable, to spring into life, soon turns this into fish, and thus affords a considerable source of profit or sustenance to the poorer class of the community.

How constantly have I heard remarked, "What a thousand pities these islands are not under a better government!—what a fine expanse for coffee, sugar!" &c. One query, however, suggested itself to my imagination — "Supposing the country were given over to our use, with full power of money, steam, &c., would the inhabitants,

the poor lowly Indian peasants, be really and truly happier than they now are—more contented or better?" I must frankly own, I could easily picture to myself how much richer the English merchant and capitalist would become, but I could not help feeling a surmise that the latter would very possibly become so, at the expense of the peace and happiness of the former.

Manila, unlike most colonies we can boast of, has been a productive source of income to her parent country, being no expense whatever to Old Spain; but, on the contrary, besides defraying heavy civil and military expenses, fostered by a set of men whom nothing but a desire of amending their fortunes could have induced to bend their way so far from home,—besides all this, she has been enabled to tender to the needy exigencies of her parent state no less a sum than five millions of dollars annually—two millions collected from the monopolies upon tobacco, and three millions from duties upon the other staple commodities of the island. I was informed that the first two millions are still sent home, the remaining three being already forestalled, and given over to

Rothschild, as a set-off upon sundry monies lent by him to the mother country. There are few foreign colonies more coveted by our neighbours on the other side the channel than the Philippine group—not so much from the fertility of the soil or the commercial value of the country, as the ability which they, or any powerful European nation, would thereby have of raising a considerable army, accustomed to a tropical climate, without which description of force any aggression which might be contemplated either against our possessions in the East, those of the Dutch, or even of the Malays, but more especially any war against the Celestial Empire, must of necessity prove abortive, not so much from the lack of physical force, or from the enormous expense which would be required to fit out an expedition entirely composed of Europeans, as from the certainty of the dreadful ravages of disease, which those so totally unclimatized would of necessity fall a sacrifice to. Although we can have no wish to increase our already overgrown colonies, yet it behoves us to keep a watchful eye over the Philippines,

lest they should glide from the hands of their present innocuous holders, into those of any of our crafty or powerful neighbours of the western hemisphere, to whom their possession might engender ideas at variance with the peace of the whole world. I do not hesitate in stating, that should any well organized country assume the reins of government, with plenty of money to enforce their wishes, an army of 100,000 men might be collected in less than six months, composed of the flower of the peasantry; and so intelligent are these people, that I believe from what I have already seen of their troops, they might be brought into the field well-disciplined and fit for service considerably under a year.

Should the duty upon Manila sugar be reduced at home, the cultivation of that cane will become general throughout the whole of the island, the greater portion of which is now under rice—the Chinese in the Fokein provinces receiving large supplies from thence. In that case our Manchester goods will sell in immense quantities, for although they manufacture beautiful silks and cottons

themselves, we can so undersell them, that even with the high duties at present imposed by Spain, there is still a trade with England sufficiently large to give a profitable reimbursement to five or six considerable mercantile establishments.

CHAPTER XXII.

Hong-Kong—Mortality—Its supposed cause—Sincapore—Tigers—The Dutch outlaw—Comfortable eyrie—Remarkable tree—Penang—An English rajah—His philanthropy—Calcutta—Pilots—Palace—Fort William—The hookah.

At the early part of 1844, the fates decreed that I should leave China. I cannot pretend to deny that this removal gave me much pleasure, for I had long been tired of the monotonous life we were obliged to live, from the sameness of which there was no escape. Having already said my say about Hong-Kong, it is needless to revert to the subject; I must, however, observe, that during my period of service there, everything was at its commencement, and although I do not mean to say we had to undergo the

difficulties of the back woodsman on his first being launched upon a wilderness of wood, of rocks, and wild country, still numerous were the difficulties on all sides to be struggled with, which required some nerve to overcome, none more than that of the dreadful mortality which continually surrounded us, not only during the whole of the thirteen months I spent on the island, but also during my entire stay in China. The first difficulties have now been in a great measure overcome, the greatest of which was that of want of covering and protection from the sun, which in my opinion was the root of the evil. Good and efficient buildings, both for the troops and for the private inhabitants, are now rising up on every side, and I trust that poor Hong-Kong will regain the good opinion that was at first entertained of it, and become one of the most flourishing of our colonies—the great emporium of commerce, whereby to supply the wants of his imperial majesty's three hundred millions of inhabitants in English manufactures.

Having taken an affectionate adieu of many a dear friend, to me a most melancholy

On Stone by B. Clayton.

Drawn by Captain Haythorn H.M. 38th Regt.

AN HORSE PALANQUIN, SINGAPO[illegible]

Saunders & Otley. Conduit St.

pleasure—(how much the more so, when separated, as we were to be, by so many countless miles of sea, and under the reflections which cannot fail to come home to the mind, of how or where shall we meet again!) —on the 1st of February we embarked in H.M.S Dido, bound for Calcutta; we called at Macao, *en passant*, and thence, under the influence of a steady north-easter, struck out into the China seas, running down inside the Paracels; we in four days sighted Paulo Sapata, and on the 8th were again anchored in Sincapore. As nothing is so provoking as a calm, so few things are more delightful than running nine knots an hour with a smooth sea, day by day, upon the wished-for course. This is almost sure to be the fortunate lot of every ship that starts from China during the height of the north-east monsoon, at which time all the junks bound to the southward run down. A Chinese chart of this track is an amusing thing to look at; in this is shewn one straight road, very much after the fashion of a turnpike, where, on either side, are represented rocks and shoals, cataracts and overfalls, together with sea-monsters, such as could not fail

to make even the stout heart and iron nerves of a Cook or an Anson shudder. Few seas are more, or indeed so easily navigated as this, provided the voyage is undertaken during a favourable monsoon, which blows with such undeviating regularity and certainty, that even a junk, which generally sails something like a haystack, has nothing to do but to keep its head straight, and it is sure of hitting the port to which it may be destined.

We this time did not remain in Sincapore more than a few hours, although that was not for the want of a most pressing invitation from the present governor; we had, however, no great inclination to remain there longer than would suffice to lay in a store of those delicious pine-apples so highly spoken of, and with just reason, by Lord Jocelyn.

The accounts which we learned of tigers were fearful—many plantations being entirely deserted, in consequence of the advances of these terrible animals and the incessant ravages which they committed amongst the inhabitants, about two hundred per annum being carried off by them. In two more days we were off Malacca, which

town, I am sorry to say, we did not visit. It looked extremely handsome from the sea, and is the oldest settlement in the straits, having been originally founded by the Portuguese, in their powerful days; from them it fell into the hands of the Dutch, and finally into those of the Honourable East India Company. It has been gradually falling off since we founded the neighbouring settlement of Sincapore; the latter being in every way much more conveniently situated in regard to its anchorage, and lying more in the track of vessels proceeding to or returning from China, by way of Sunda Straits and the Island of Java.

I was much amused by a story told me concerning a Dutch gentleman, a Mr. Roedyke, who, upon our first difficulties with that nation, had surrendered into our hands a fort of which he was in charge; for this act he had been outlawed by his government, a price being set upon his head. To this gentleman, the Honourable Company had given a considerable yearly salary by way of counterpoise to the hard sentence of his government; he, however, could not rest contented with this alone, but continually

petitioned the Hon. Company to use its influence with that of the Netherlands to release him from the sentence of outlawry, which at length they succeeded in doing; judge, however, his dismay, when the tidings of his being free to return home in safety were accompanied by an intimation, that having no further fear of his head, he no longer could stand in need of his salary, after which, he was just as anxious to be under sentence of death again as he had formerly been to be free from it. All his entreaties, however, could not prevail upon that humane government to put his life in jeopardy, even at his own request. He thought this very hard, but to me it appeared the just reward of not letting well alone.

Our voyage through the Malacca Straits was rather tedious, from the very light winds which usually blow at this season of the year. On the 15th of February, we found ourselves anchored in the lovely harbour of Penang—H. M. S. Cornwallis the only man-of-war there at that time. A telegraphic despatch from the admiral, inviting our whole party to a delightful bun-

galow, at the summit of the hill, was most cheerfully accepted. About three in the afternoon, we started in horse palanquins to the foot of the hill, having ponies in readiness to carry us the remainder of the distance; this consisted of a steep ascent, about four miles up a narrow bridle-road, where the sun could scarce penetrate from the dense foliage which overshadowed it. Arrived at the summit, the view which presented itself was truly grand—the air cool and refreshing, the thermometer standing almost invariably ten degrees lower than in the town below. Here we spent two most pleasant days, guests of the commander-in-chief; on the third, we exchanged our abode for that of the Admiralty House below; for, by the generosity of the Honourable Company, a handsome house is provided in almost all the large stations frequented by the navy, for the admiral or commanding officer on the station. The few days of our stay were spent in most agreeable rides through the different portions of the island, under the chaperonage of his excellency, who, although he had arrived but a short time prior to ourselves, seemed to

know every inch of the localities. One of the great sights is that of a stupendous tree, which stands within the boundary of a nutmeg plantation, the property of a Mr. Brown, our road to which lay through a delightful country, highly cultivated with sugar plantations, &c., the agricultural work being done almost exclusively by Chinese. The tree was very magnificent: the colossal column of the trunk was 117 feet in height, uninterrupted by a single branch, above which it reared its proud head; its circumference at this height was twenty-four feet, and its girth, at three feet from the ground, was thirty-one and a half. It was not of a very hard wood, but appeared of a spongy description, emitting, upon being perforated, a white milk. It struck the beholder more from the evenness of its form, being of such large proportions all the way up, than from its giant size.

From this we ascended to the summit of Portland Hill, through a thick grove of wood, in which grew an infinite variety of ferns—no less than three hundred and one different species having been already discovered to flourish in the island. A story

of a tiger having visited this plantation was lately spread about, which turned out to be an entire hoax, having originated through the devices of a clever Chinaman, who, envious of some property in the occupation of a neighbour, made a pair of wooden pattens in the shape of tigers' feet, in which he occasionally walked by night, trusting that the nerves of his timid friend would not be proof against the bare intimation of a visit from this ferocious monster, but being one night discovered in his pattens, the ruse did not succeed according to his wishes, and the alarm subsided into a hearty laugh.

Neither the mangostein nor durian—both of which fruits are so highly spoken of—were yet quite in season; a few of the former, which we did taste, made me readily fancy it must be the finest fruit in the world.

The society in Penang seems very good, its classification being numbered and adhered to with an unequalled degree of strictness. Occasionally, a No. 2 may venture within the precincts of No. 1; but should an unlucky No. 3 be caught in that hallowed ground, less commotion would

probably occur at the presence of a boa-constrictor. Most of them are brunettes, having much mixed blood. The pronunciation of the *th* seemed to cause some difficulty, as I overheard a lady at a ball say, "I forty, sa-ar, I am only dirty!" Her appearance certainly did not belie the assertion, but until then I fancied it had proceeded more from a little oriental blood than from the cause she assigned.*

The colonial surgeon, Dr. Cantwell, had a unique collection of natural curiosities of all descriptions, amongst which was that of a tiger-cat alive—a perfect miniature tiger—the most ferocious monster I ever came

* The Chinese have also great difficulty in pronouncing the letter *r*, invariably substituting for it the letter *l*. Thus mandarine they always pronounce manaline. While walking with my friend, Mr. W——, just prior to leaving Penang, I was much amused at the address of a Chinese shopkeeper, who spoke very tolerable English. "Captain W——," said he, "you sabe Loasee Family have bring rice this voyage?" I may here mention, that the Loajee Family was the name of a vessel which traded from Bombay to China, and constantly brought this staple commodity to supply the wants of the Chinese population in the Straits. If the courteous reader will take the pains to substitute the letter *l* for that of *r*, he will readily perceive the cause of amusement this little speech afforded me; the cargo which the Chinaman inquired about answering perfectly to the name of the ship in which its arrival was expected.

across. He also possessed the skull of a pirate who had been hanged a few weeks previously; there was nothing very peculiar in this, save that the teeth had been burnt black with a hot iron. The common expression amongst these barbarous wretches is that dogs have white teeth, for which reason they stain theirs black.

Penang is, upon the whole, a very thriving settlement; but from the nature of the island, being generally hilly, it cost a large sum of money to clear the soil of brushwood; hence the cultivation of the nutmeg-tree is rendered the more expensive. I have heard it stated, that one single tree has been known to return no less a sum than 100 dollars in one year. When the great expense of cultivating and watering it, which latter must be done, in a dry season, by means of puckalies, or water-carriers, who have sometimes to bring it in leather bags a considerable distance, is taken into consideration, no grand sum will eventually be left for profit.

Province Wellesley, situated on the main land of the Malay peninsula, immediately opposite the island, and which has been

ceded by its chief to us, consists of a strip of land, about sixty miles long by thirty broad, and is, for the most part, in sugar plantations; of which, should the home duties be reduced, a large increase of cultivation will take place.

Prior to our departure, H. M. sloops Wanderer and Harlequin came into harbour. They had been sent to punish a rajah, in the neighbourhood of Acheen, for some piratical practices which he had been carrying on against merchant ships bearing the English ensign. This they had effected in the most complete and summary manner: as he refused to give any satisfaction whatever for his misdemeanour, they burned to the ground two of his villages. This they did not effect without great resistance, and unfortunately, from the difficult nature of the country, some loss of life; the first lieutenant of the Harlequin losing his left arm, and receiving a severe wound in his side, from a sword-cut, and nine men being placed *hors de combat.*

While speaking of the return of this expedition, I cannot omit to make mention of the name of one who attended it as an amateur, and who, in leading an attack against

a stockade, which was obstinately defended, received a ball through the fleshy part of the left arm and a spear wound above the eye. I have always regretted that I had only an opportunity of making a fleeting acquaintance with this gentleman, Mr. B——, who, by his numerous acts of philanthropy, has rendered himself so greatly beloved by the industrious and honest in the island of Borneo and the entire of this far Eastern archipelago, while his name is a terror to all piratical marauders who infest these seas. Mr. B—— has been a resident in the far east for some years, choosing it by reason of its climate agreeing better with his health than any other in the world. He formerly served with great distinction in the Rangoon war, after which, returning home, he succeeded to a more than independent—a considerable fortune. His health, however, would not bear the cold regions of the north; nor had he in the Mediterranean any great relief; he determined, therefore, to renew his acquaintance with the islands of the Eastern archipelago, to which country he was also led by his views of amending the state of the unfortunate inhabitants, as well as that of benefit-

ing his health. These, I am informed, were his motives for adopting a life which many would call a species of banishment, its freedom and adventurous description being consonant to the tastes of few. How true is the old saying, "How little does one half of the world know what the other half is about!" How small an idea have many of those sitting quietly at home, of the daring acts of chivalrous devotion and philanthropy upon which many of our countrymen in distant parts of the world are occupied. Such is the cause in which Mr. B—— is now engaged.

After cruising for some months amongst the comparatively unknown islands and little frequented straits of the Borneo, he found himself at the entrance of the Sarawak River, on the north-west shores of that island, at the very time in which a Mussulman rajah was engaged in making war upon, or rather oppressing some of the wretched Dyaks, or natives of the soil. His vessel was a schooner in the Royal Yacht Squadron, of not more than 150 tons burthen, and built more for sailing than fighting. Regardless, however, of the consequences which might accrue to himself, or his handful of followers,

he placed himself at the mouth of the river, having intimated to the rajah, that he should defend the unhappy people, and should even resort to his guns (a few six-pounders) should he attempt to advance. Although he possessed but this small yacht, to oppose nearly eighty large prows, all well manned and armed, his determined attitude had the desired effect, and much to his own astonishment, the rajah retired with his forces. This act gave him no little influence, as you will readily imagine, over the poor unfortunates whom he had shielded.

Conceiving a fondness as well for the natives themselves as for the country in which they lived, he determined upon the bold project of settling himself there. After considerable difficulty, he succeeded in making a treaty with the Sultan of Borneo Proper,—that, upon condition of paying a certain annual rent, or tribute, a territory, consisting of sixty miles long and thirty deep, should be ceded to his exclusive government, he being appointed rajah over the same. From a plain English country gentleman, behold him at once—although a tributary one—yet in power a sovereign potentate over no inconsiderable tract of

country, and over a population of native Dyaks, even then large, although it had been languishing under the continued misgovernment of his predecessors. Not merely had he the semblance of government, but the power of the life or death of his subjects, was freely placed into his hands. What a bold mind must his be to have accepted such a situation, backed by no paternal ensign floating in the breeze, or by experienced or brave troops, but with the exception of a few—very few—devoted followers, almost single handed to have courted such a change. And ably, indeed, has he to this day conducted it; invariably protecting the weak and oppressed from the tyranny of the powerful, giving all possible encouragement to industry, and discountenance to idleness, piracy, and plunder.

His fortune, though very considerable, he has freely expended to carry out his projects, and with very considerable success; but, in a pecuniary point of view, I am inclined to fancy with but an indifferent return. I, however, sincerely hope, that when confidence in his government has been fully established, he may succeed in that point also as a still further means of enabling him to do

good. During the few years since his government has been established, the number of inhabitants have augmented to a considerable degree; a large population of Chinese have already flocked to the Sarawack River, to place themselves under his rule, and a great extent of territory near to its banks has already been brought under cultivation. Happy homes, contented faces, and smiling plenty, already replace savage barbarism, rapacity, and want. Please God, this state of things may increase and prosper, year by year!

In some measure he has already been repaid, in a pecuniary point, for the immense outlay of capital he has incurred; for this country, in addition to its being of a very fruitful soil, is rich also in mineral productions—in gold, diamonds, and antimony ore; the latter being dug up in considerable quantities by the native Dyaks, who either barter it for Manchester goods, or other European manufactures, or pay a portion of it to their lord in return for the property they hold from him. This antimony ore is then shipped for Sincapore, and from thence home to England. Per-

haps many of my readers are not aware of what use it is turned to in Europe, and may be somewhat surprised when I tell them that a vast number of the imitation spoons and forks sold in London originally came in the form of antimony ore from Mr. B——'s estate in Sarawak River, in the island of Borneo. In its good colour, strength, and durability, it bids fair to outstrip silver itself for the purposes to which it is now applied.

Jealousy of this rising settlement, as well as a thirst for plunder, soon caused some uneasiness to the small band of Europeans, from the rumours with which they were continually beset of attacks from the formidable neighbours who were settled near them, and who, so far from having a relish for this peaceable and orderly style of government, enjoy the unenviable distinction of being whole nations of pirates. These rumours had much more the effect of intimidating the hard-working population whom he had collected around him, than it had upon his own lion heart; and but for a very fortunate circumstance, I am much afraid that all his exertions would have been insufficient to have persuaded these people to

remain on the land they were cultivating; and thereby he would have been obliged to have retired from the honourable position in which he had placed himself—all his labour of body and anxiety of mind would have been thrown away.

The Chinese war was the cause of our increasing considerably our fleet in the Eastern Seas, and as soon as it was concluded, our active-minded admiral looked on all sides with a desire of observing where the ships under his command might be the most usefully employed in supporting the honour and dignity of H. B. M.'s flag. Hearing of the numerous pirates which infested the shores of Borneo, he determined to send one of the most efficient vessels there, and for this service chose an eighteen gun corvette of considerable sailing powers, and commanded by an officer not the less noted for his courage and daring than for his seamanship.

This corvette, H. M. S. Dido, soon after her arrival on her station, paid the little settlement in the Sarawak River a visit, when the gallant commander perceived that the most efficient aid which he could render to the cause of humanity, as well as the

future welfare of the spirited undertaking, would be to sweep the neighbourhood as clear of pirates as it was possible, destroy their haunts, and render the British name and the union-jack as terrible, and as much to be respected, in Borneo as it had been proved to be to every other nation on the globe. It would be unfair, if not impossible, for me to give a lengthened description of the important services rendered by this ship, as I trust, ere long, I may have the pleasure of seeing the accounts of them in print; —suffice it, therefore, to say, that within a few weeks she had destroyed two large fleets of formidable piratical proas, utterly routing three strongholds of the pirates—in which service the utmost degree of intelligence was shewn in the attack, as well as moderation in victory, by both officers and crew. The captain modestly declining to allow his own name to appear in the dispatches, in the hopes that, should any promotion be the consequence of his successes it would fall to the share of his first lieutenant, which, indeed, eventually took place, Lieutenant H—— being promoted to the rank of commander as soon as the admiral's dispatches reached the Admiralty.

The skill and ability displayed throughout this service, added to its complete success, has tended more than any other thing to the quiet and peace of the whole neighbourhood, and has been the means of shewing to this ignorant and uninstructed race, the power which we really possess, and has given them an impression that however far distant we to all appearance may be, that we search out their inmost recesses whenever it suits our purpose so to do.*

After these occurrences were well known, fresh numbers flocked on all sides to the Sarawak River, and it now bids fair to rival any settlement in this far distant archipelago. The same corvette is now upon the same station, and I believe assisted by a small steamer; and, I doubt not, the accounts of the services she will render in 1844 will even outstrip those of 1843.

I sincerely trust that Mr. B—— will not be offended with my having given this unlicensed sketch of his colonial proceedings, my motive being solely to assist, by any means, however humble, in giving to the world a true idea of his intentions,

* Not far from this river the Hon. Mr. Murray has since been murdered by pirates.

and the philanthropic views with which he has been actuated in his undertaking,—many envious individuals having endeavoured to foster the notion that he has been prompted solely with the desire of gain and profitable speculations, rather than with the pure motives which have actuated his proceedings throughout—a wish to do good towards his fellow-creatures.

Many to whom I have related the above particulars, feel it difficult to reconcile to themselves the idea that an English country gentleman should have placed himself in so extraordinary a position, in despotic power and authority, equal, if not superior, to the autocrat of Russia. Such, however, is the case; and were he not subject, by the treaty of his tenure, to a small yearly payment to the sultan of Borneo, he would, in every respect, be an independent prince, by which title he is invariably addressed and spoken of, both by the inhabitants of the settlement themselves, as well as those of the neighbouring provinces, wherever the Malay or Dyak languages are used.

Bidding our friends in the Cornwallis adieu, and most affectionately greeting the kind admiral, we sailed for Calcutta. Light

winds attended our voyage; we were three days ere we got clear of the Malay peninsula, taking our last view of it at Junk Ceylon, a small island, detached from the main, on the eastern side of the bay of Bengal, in contra-distinction to its elder brother Ceylon, on the western side, now in our possession, and about the same latitude. Nothing particularly worthy of notice occurred during our run to Calcutta. We sighted the islands of Coco and Preparis; with that exception, we neither saw land nor ships until immediately in the neighbourhood of the Sandheads. Owing to the extremely light winds which prevail at this season of the year, our passage was a long one, and at one time we began to be fearful of our not being in time to catch the Bentinck, one of those steamers which start for Suez, from Calcutta, almost every month, and was, in this instance, advertised to sail in the middle of March; nor should we have done so, but for the extraordinary powers of sailing of the craft, added to the constant attention bestowed on her navigation. We made the Sandheads on Thursday, the 7th, five weeks from China, which was considered, at this season, an

astonishing quick passage — the distance about 3000 miles—more especially as we had stayed five days in Penang. As a proof, a friend, in the Madras Engineers, left Sincapore, in a merchant ship, seventeen days before we left China, and did not arrive until some days subsequently to ourselves, although the distance was nearly 1300 miles less. Early in the morning, a pilot came on board from one of the brigs, which are continually cruising about in the vicinity of these dangerous shoals. From earliest childhood, I had always been taught to consider the grandeur and luxuriance of Calcutta to be unrivalled, but I was not prepared to see even the pilot—a man with whom, at home, we associate the idea of a rough pea-coat and a quid of tobacco—walk over the side with the airs of "la jeune France"—a gigantic chest being handed after him, a juvenile leadsman, as well as his private servant, attending upon him.

The cool, easy way in which he took the entire charge of the ship, shewed that he was not much accustomed to see vessels of the royal navy—indeed, as he afterwards confessed, he had never previously been on

board one, and seemed perfectly confounded with the celerity with which all his orders were attended to, having been heretofore accustomed, when in charge of merchant ships in narrow channels, to give the order to put down the helm almost immediately after she had obtained way after the last board. The Hoogly is a most dangerous river, and by no means to be trifled with; even with the splendid pilot establishment that is kept up, some of whom receive salaries of seven or eight hundred a year, numerous shipwrecks yearly occur.

We anchored that evening at Kedgeree, about eighty miles from the capital, but were two days more ere we reached the city of palaces. It would indeed be absurd of me to say more than a few words about either this truly noble town or its inhabitants. We remained in it but four days, whereas those who have been there for four times as many years, still feel much difficulty in giving any idea of what it is like to one who has never seen it. Its first appearance reminded me very much of Regent's Park—the same style of architecture abounding throughout, much more appropriate for its sunny soil than for the dreary climate of

our native country. Here, however, each house is equal to five or six of those at home. The palace, a noble edifice, stands pre-eminent; it was built in the reign of that grand statesman, Marquis Wellesley, by an Italian architect, after that style. Its form is square, with a wing at each angle; the body of the building forming the state-rooms, grand ball-room, &c.; the wings, the private drawing-room and dwelling apartments of his excellency and suite. This building is three stories high, the centre surmounted by a gigantic dome; the entire of the banqueting-rooms are flagged with slates of marble, with scagliola pillars at intervals; the decorations being white and gold. It is reckoned the coolest room in India, the windows being never allowed to remain open during the day, the hot air is never let in, and the cold is continually stirred by the motions of the punka; it is, without exception, the most luxurious apartment I ever entered in the East. I had an opportunity of attending a state dinner: more than 120 sat down, and what between the nobleness of the room, the beautiful dress of the servants, and the magnificence of the plate, &c., &c., I never be-

fore witnessed so handsome a scene as the *tout ensemble* presented. We visited the far-famed Fort William, which is kept in neater order than any I had ever seen; but, nevertheless, it is not healthy, owing, very possibly, as much to the habits of its inmates, being chiefly raw recruits from England, as from the fort itself. We had the good fortune to put up at a most comfortable hotel, though an exceedingly close and hot one (Spence's), where the tempting supplies of ice which we met with, though pleasant to the taste, caused, by a too free indulgence, a severe illness, which I endured during the first days of our voyage to Madras. We attended the theatre once, which was a neat building, situated in Park-street, and able to contain six hundred persons; one thing was particularly striking, but which, upon slight reflection, cannot but be considered as highly advantageous in that country. There were no upper tier of boxes or gallery, the absence of which was a great benefit; but in their place, above each box, were suspended punkas, a rope from each of which, passing through a hole above the door, wafted a gentle breeze through the

entire house, keeping people in a proper train of body, to allow their minds to be diverted by what they saw and heard. "Norma" was to have been performed, but the untimely death by cholera, which was raging in Calcutta at the time, of one of the principal performers, prevented its being so, and a comedy was substituted—the company were French. The heat of the weather, together with the shortness of our stay, precluded our going to any of the environs, either Barackpoor or Dum-Dum. Barackpoor is the country residence of the governor, where a palace was commenced by Marquis Wellesley, resembling the one in Calcutta; but ere it could be completed, although a contract had been entered into for that purpose, it was decided by the Court of Directors at home, to be a useless expenditure of money, and orders were sent to discontinue it.

A magnificent ball was given to the governor-general the night previous to our departure, by a small portion of the civil society of Calcutta; a large proportion declining to join in it, having taken offence at his lordship choosing, as they said, to favour

the military departments at the expense of the civilians. It is not, however, likely that this show of their feelings should operate upon a master-mind like his, rightly judging that the calamities which we met with in the disastrous Affghan campaign, might be principally attributed to the control of our armies being placed under the orders of the political agents, rather than of their own general officers—a mistake which has, on more than one occasion, tended to the blemish of our arms in the East, but which, it is to be hoped, will not occur again. The speech delivered by his excellency that evening was grand and noble; from its tenour, it was natural to suppose that ere long he expected the sword of war would once more be unsheathed in the Punjaub,—indeed, every one in India seems to expect, within a few years, war in that quarter inevitable. It will be a fearful struggle, provided they all unite against us—as their artillery, formed on precisely the same model as our own, exceeds it very greatly in numerical strength; and their infantry, the main-stay of an army, raised from the same provinces as our own sepoys, are equally well in-

structed in European tactics. Those who seem to understand the country well, agree in stating that it would be madness to attempt to go into it with less than 70,000 efficient troops. Clear-sighted policy, however, and gold, may do much to cause divisions amongst themselves, in which case, like the Kilkenny cats, they may devour one another, and render themselves harmless to those who, having but one common interest and opinion, content themselves quietly to look on at the game, ready at any time to repel ingression into their own territory, but careful to keep from meddling unless there arise imperious necessity for their doing so. How tenfold now do the disastrous effects of the Affghan campaign, with its waste of blood and treasure, recoil upon us, telling to the *whole East*, what we, until then, alone knew—that we were not wholly either invulnerable or unconquerable.

What can I say regarding the society of the Eastern metropolis? For the reasons I have before mentioned, a large part of its female beauties were absent from the ball, those alone being there whose families ad-

hered to the opinions of the court. Amongst them were some very handsome and distinguished looking people. The sons and grandsons of the unfortunate Tippoo were also present, pensioners upon the bounty of the government; they appeared rather mean representatives of their illustrious forefathers. Many natives, both Hindoos and Mussulmans, were also of the party, and although none of them would partake of the handsome supper, or the champagne which was plentifully passed around, yet many appeared to understand its qualities uncommonly well, using it with no unsparing hand, if report speak truly, when buried in the recesses of their zenanas.

Regularly every evening we drove upon the Corso, by the river's bank. Here may be seen, from half-past five until seven, all the fashion and beauty of the city. Many of the turn-outs would do honour to Hyde Park. Indeed, the number of attendants to each carriage—often three or four footmen, in their Oriental liveries—gave to them an appearance of much splendour. Liberty here, however, has greater sway than at home; for the fashionable drive is

as free to the humble palque, with ten inside, drawn by a wretched tatoo, or small pony, as to his excellency's britska and four, with its due complement of running footmen.

I regret much that our time was so limited in Calcutta; consequently, having seen so little, I cannot pretend to say much about so splendid a city. The older inhabitants sigh for the good old days, ere the restrictions of the trade were taken off, and recount to you the grandeur of India as it was. The present speedy intercourse with England has done much, and will do much more, to break through what some might be inclined to call prejudices; at all events, to assimilate one country with the other, if not in climate, in manners. The regal style, in which it was the custom formerly to live, ere the fruit of the pagoda tree was entirely gleaned, has now given place, in a considerable degree, to more homely and European customs. People, from the ease with which an overland journey is performed, far from making up their minds to remain in India all their lives *and live every day*, now endeavour,

by a few years devoted to industry and parsimony, to be enabled to return to their native country, there to enjoy the fruits of their labour. I do not mean to say that their hospitality is less, but used with more discrimination. Upon the whole, this is not to be complained of; for, upon the one hand, it tends to foster the *amor patriæ*, the mainspring to the heart of the true Briton, as well as causing a vast sum of money to be poured into our parent country, neither of which circumstances can be justly found fault with by us. The natural result of this is less ostentation, though possibly more real comforts than formerly were enjoyed by the great mass of the British inhabitants of India.

I had always deemed it impossible to remain in Bengal, even for an hour, without seeing some person using the hookah, or bubble-bubble pipe, with its attendants, but I neither saw one nor the other during my entire stay, and it seems to have gone quite out of fashion. This puts me in mind of a circumstance which happened to a friend of my own many years since,—a certain honourable, then a midshipman in one of H.M. ships,

who, in the course of his service, arrived at Calcutta. A friend in Fort William, who, having been long in the country, and wishing to shew him every civility, thought the best way he could do so was by sending at early dawn his hookahbada, or pipe attendant, to wait upon him, giving strict injunctions to pay particular court to this son of the great Lord Saib. The servant arrived at the hour of washing decks, and judge his astonishment to see the friend of his own Saib, who himself had neither tied a shoe nor put on his own gloves for twenty years, with naked feet, and neither hat nor jacket, assisting in the humble duties of the ship; nor could any persuasion make him believe that the youth he saw was the real son of a Lord Saib, and he returned to tell his master there was no such person on board.

One custom prevails which is certainly revolting to the feelings of a European, though, perchance, upon the whole, it conduces rather to the health than the contrary of the inhabitants. I allude to the universal habit, which the entire Hindoo population practise, of casting their dead into the River Hoogly, [one branch of the sacred

Ganges.] It certainly prevents the possibility of the air being tainted by any effluvia as in our crowded burial-grounds. The sight, however, of from ten to twenty bodies floating in the stream, with crows and other birds of prey feasting upon them, and but a few yards distant from the line of equipages on the Corso, cannot tend to enliven the feelings and tender sensibilities of their occupants, more especially during a cholera season, at which it was my fate to visit the capital of Bengal; unless, indeed, it may be considered as a good lesson to display to those gaudy butterflies to what every mortal man must at length come, if not to be picked to pieces by the birds of the air, or devoured by the fishes and crocodiles of the river, at least to meet with no more courtesy from the land-crabs and other reptiles which infest the ground.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Bentinck—Madras—The surf—Masula boats—Catamarans—Fort George—Madras Club—Climate—Westminster Abbey—Ticklish anchorage—Galle—Colombo—Speculation.

HAVING secured a tolerable berth on board the gigantic steam-ship Bentinck, we started about half-past nine on the 15th of March for Suez, intending to stop at Madras, Point de Galle, and Aden, on our way. The crowd of passengers was very great—nearly one hundred and thirty, besides children; the accommodation being so very good, the inconvenience from this cause was not much felt, more especially as everything was conducted with a regularity

greatly to be commended. I must, however, earnestly impress upon all travellers by these vessels, within the tropics, the advantage of a forward berth, being able to obtain there, plenty of wholesome fresh air, while, abaft the engine, and more especially on the lower deck, where a late comer is sure to be placed, the scuttles (not a little magnified in the drawing shewn of the vessel) being closed when there is the slightest sea, the air is rendered fetid and impure; and in many of these cabins there is scarcely light sufficient for the operation of shaving. The living on board was first-rate, as those so long accustomed to the luxurious style of the East would by no means be contented with the plain roast and boiled of our Scotch packets; and the society on board, from the double cause of expense, and their not allowing any second-class passengers, were almost entirely composed of the first in the presidencies from which they came. On the evening of the second day, we bade adieu to the pilot and the Sandheads, and steered a direct south-west course for Madras. There could be no more favourable

time during the whole year for the homeward voyage, as being just between the periodical south-west and north-east monsoons. We had to expect either calms or light winds, even as far as the entrance of the Red Sea. On Thursday, 21st March, we anchored in the Madras Roads, distant from the town about half a mile. A considerable number of ships were also lying there, consisting for the most part of small trading salt-vessels, a vast quantity of that useful article being made in an inland lake not very distant, and in a northerly direction from the town. There were one or two passenger-ships looking, I should imagine, with envious eyes upon the eager aspirants for berths in our leviathan of a steamer, a dozen or two of whom would have been sufficient to have paid them on their homeward trip; but pace—"go-a-head"—is now the order of the day, and they had to look in vain. The far-famed surf of Madras was, at this season, comparatively very tranquil. It was, however, not reckoned prudent for any one to land in a European-built boat, which, they said,

would be swamped. The master-attendant's Masula-boat being in attendance, we had no difficulty in getting on shore. If noise and apparent confusion would indicate danger, it would indeed be a perilous undertaking to land there, for the thousand discordant cries and yells uttered on all sides are quite sufficient to scare away the sharks with which the roads are said to abound. In getting within the surf we bumped heavily once or twice, but these boats being composed of long planks of wood, lashed together with thongs, shew less resistance to the hard sand, and do not break to pieces, which must be the fate of one fastened in any other way. Numerous catamarans surrounded us during the whole while, trusting it might be their good fortune that we should be upset, in which case they would, after a severe ducking, receive the reward of saving us. They have so often been described, that it were needless of me to say more than that they consist of three logs of wood, about ten feet long, each considerably smaller at the same end; thus, when tied together, the raft is pointed, and

rather turned up to meet the coming waves. Upon this, two men kneel, one in rear of the other, each with a small paddle in his hand. Their dress consists of a painted straw skull-cap, fitting tightly to the head, and impervious to the water. This answers the purpose of a letter-bag, in which they will carry a dispatch both safely and dry on shore, even when the surf is so boisterous as to render it impossible for any boat whatever to attempt it. They wear a very narrow cloth about their middle, and reminded me much of the hobgoblins in "Der Freischutz."

A carriage was in attendance to take us to Gingey, the country residence of the governor, where we at once proceeded. A number of handsome buildings are situated in front of the sea, which has latterly, however, been making severe encroachments. Having passed these, and catching a slight glance of Black town, where the native population reside, we drove through the glacis of the fort, which is laid out very prettily with broad walks, and trees, chiefly the banaan-tree, planted on either side. Fort George was here the principal feature,

and seemed to have the same care bestowed upon it as Fort William, Calcutta, but is reckoned hot and unhealthy. The colossal statue of Sir Thomas Munro, by Sir Francis Chantry, occupied also a very prominent position.

During our drive we passed a number of handsome private residences, and a splendid building, the Madras Club, which is a very liberal establishment, and conducted most admirably. Gingey, the country residence of his excellency, is about nine miles from the town; it is situated in a superb park, laid out quite in the English style, care seeming to have been taken to replace the lofty palm and cocoa-nut with European shrubs, for, with the exception of two at some distance, there were no tropical trees to be seen. Before dinner I was driven round the artillery cantonments, called the Mount, and fortunately met with some of my old companions in arms in China. The style of living seems to be precisely the same as that of Calcutta, perhaps rather more homely and a little more provincial. Notwithstanding the extreme heat of this tropical region, the same style of dress

was worn as by the troops in Europe. Although Madras cannot, in point of grandeur, be compared with its elder brother of Calcutta, the society is by no means, I am assured, inferior; indeed, I am inclined to imagine perhaps superior. The climate, I can readily believe, is far better; for although it is many degrees further south, yet, being situated so near the sea, its refreshing breeze acts as the doctor in Jamaica, causing, as soon as it is set in, an elasticity both of mind and body; during this season, it generally does so about eleven A.M. The following morning, being specified for our departure, we had small time to gratify our curiosity in this presidency; and as we saw so little, I am bound to suppose there was a great deal to be seen. We had a pleasant drive by a different road from the one we took in going out, returning in the morning by the sea-side. Here we saw, much to my surprise, a number of boys swimming, as I had been always told that sharks were particularly numerous. It, however, appears that they are very fastidious in their taste, and that where the black may dabble

with impunity, instant death awaits the white man. No sooner do they smell the blood of an Englishman, than their voracious jaws tear him to pieces. We embarked at mid-day, without taking in even as much as a drop of water, although the surf ran high, and proceeded on our course to Ceylon.

If steamers are made for these seas, most assuredly these seas are made for steamers; for while the towering white sails of the majestic bark flap against the mast, and the still more weary passenger rolls listlessly on her deck, this wonderful machine of modern art progresses steadily, yet surely, on her undeviating way.

On Sunday, the 25th of March, a remarkable hill, called Westminster Abbey, from its great similarity to that building, presented itself, and a few hours after we passed the Basses, two dangerous reefs of rock, lying at the south-east of Ceylon; by bearings which I repeatedly took, I found that during the greater portion of this day we were making eleven knots over the ground, full power being kept up to enable us, if possible, to get into the harbour of

Point de Galle, ere nightfall, the entrance to which is difficult and very dangerous after dark. With all our exertions we were unable to accomplish it, being obliged to come to anchor about nine P.M., then distant about two miles from a signal lantern hung upon the flag-staff, which acts as a very respectable apology of a light-house. The waves were thundering upon this, a lee-shore: had we been in a sailing vessel, our position would have been considered a critical one; but here had our anchor made an attempt at coming home, a few strokes of the paddles would have sent us far out to sea in a few minutes. At early dawn we were again under weigh, running close among the shipping. Galle has a pretty appearance from the sea; the harbour, although very small, may be considered safe; and notwithstanding the greater portion of it is exposed to the south-east, and a heavy swell continually sets in, yet the wind never blows home. There are also many rocks at its entrance, which, although they present dangerous obstacles for the entry, yet, when a ship is once in, they act as useful screens against the vio-

On Stone by E. Clayton

Drawn by C. Garstone, Esq.r B.C.S.

VIEW OF POINT DE GALLE, FROM THE SEA.

Saunders & Otley Conduit St.

lence of the sea. Soon after breakfast we went on shore, taking up our abode at lodgings belonging to P. D. Antonio, Esq., medical attendant to the Ceylon Rifles, who thus added a trifle, in an honourable way, to his slender income, to assist in maintaining a numerous family of eight or nine brothers and sisters, besides his mother and grandmother. We were most comfortably entertained, and a few kind expressions at parting even brought tears from the good lady's eyes. Her daughters are pretty girls, "born to blush unseen." The day was so exceedingly hot, that we were glad to put off an inspection of the town and neighbourhood until the evening, which was rendered considerably cooler by a plentiful shower of rain. The town itself is the cleanest I almost ever saw—a striking difference to those on the opposite coast of the Malay peninsula, both Penang and Sincapore, neither of which can boast of such a distinction. The fortifications, originally built by the Portuguese, are in a tolerably good state of repair; the town itself having more the appearance of being Dutch; these were its last occupants, and surrendered to us about

the year 1800. A small, though commodious library is situated in a convenient part of the town. There is a good road to Colombo, to which place a mail van is dispatched three times per week, the distance being about seventy-two miles. We hired a good horse-palanquin, and drove to the cinnamon gardens, which lie upon the Colombo road, three miles from the town. There is not much to be seen there beyond a few cinnamon shrubs, which, to us in particular, were no novelty. I was afterwards informed that the drive to Mount Gibson is by far the pleasantest, some portion of the surrounding country being, from this more elevated situation, to be seen. This property belongs to an elderly Dutch lady, who is delighted to make a fleeting acquaintance with the passing stranger. In no portion of the globe have I experienced such sensations from the grandeur of the waves, which everlastingly break their gigantic billows upon this coast; a never-ceasing roar is kept up, which, although the feelings of the inhabitants are long since dead to it, yet the general complaint of all strangers is, that they could get no sleep from this cause.

I feel that I could sit for hours in the verandah of the master-attendant's house, watching the last moments of each gigantic monster, as it gave up the ghost with a fearful struggle and terrific crash.

The inhabitants of Galle appear a thriving set, and may thank their stars for the situation of their little town, which, lying in the direct route to Calcutta and China from the Red Sea, is likely to become very prosperous. No stranger can fail to be struck with the dress of the inhabitants, that of the men in every way resembling the females; indeed, I was there far too short a time to enable me to decide which was which. The men wear long hair, turned up in a knot behind, and fastened with an immense tortoiseshell comb, gold earrings, and a long petticoat tied round them, reaching to the ankles, and almost invariably carry a parasol to shade their somewhat obscure features from the rays of the sun.

Speculation has been the order of the day in this colony, as well as elsewhere, immense sums having been realized in coffee plantations.

An instance of peculiar good fortune ex-

isted in Major Parkes, of the Ceylon Rifles, who had latterly returned to England with nearly 100,000*l.* This instance of good luck was continually cited by eager speculators; but from what I could learn, the number of disappointed were far greater than of fortunate ones, who had embarked their capital in the island, the returns appearing more specious upon paper than in reality generally proved the case. These were attributed to different causes, such as want of rain or want of labour, but in the sequel they amounted to a sad lack in the returns of invested capital, many of the estates, I was assured, scarcely yielding three per cent. upon the outlay.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Increase of passengers—Affair of the heart—Socotra—Its deadly climate—The Hindostan—Cape Guardafui——Aden—Wicker-work hotel—The camp and pass—The Red Sea—Comforts of the steam-boats—Pilgrims—Change of temperature.

HAVING completed the operation of coaling as expeditiously as possible, we got under way on the 27th, with an influx of passengers, some of whom had been waiting the arrival of the steamer a considerable time—passengers from the far East, even from Manila—while an increase was also made to our number in the person of the Nawaub of Surat—Meer Jafer Ali Khan by name—on his way to the throne, to lay a

petition at the feet of H.B.M., fancying he had been deprived of his just rights by the Honourable Company. We, on the other hand, lost some of our recently acquired friends, amongst whom was an agreeable and handsome young lady, who meeting her intended at this the extreme of British India, conceived that to remain with him would tend far more to her happiness than a trip to Europe, and consequently bent her way to Colombo, in company with her sister and other friends, there to be united.

On the 29th we descried a Lacadive proa, though the islands themselves were nowhere in sight. The sight of this boat, though no novelty to myself, who had been bewildered by strange and curious craft in the far East, yet was very interesting, recalling to our recollection the account given by Lord Anson, more than a hundred years since, of these islands. How little could he then foretell the wonderful changes which were to take place in these seas! what then was a wilderness of ocean, now is rendered a Macadamized road, an undeviating tract to the leviathan steamers, which carry all before them.

On the 3rd of April, Socotra hove in sight. This island may be considered almost as the continuation of the north-eastern coast of Africa. It certainly bears the appearance of having been detached from the main at some distant period by one of those unaccountable convulsions of nature which sometimes occur—a chain of desert, rocky islands, almost connecting it with the land of Abyssinia. Socotra is now inhabited principally by Arabs. Its position cannot fail to call forth the question by those whose armies have overrun the east, Why it also has not been occupied by some European power? This formerly was the case, it having attracted the attention of the great civilizers of the world as far back as the time of Marco Polo on his visits to the East. The last European power who held any tenure there was the Portuguese, Albuquerque founding a settlement. This, however, was eventually given up, the fort now lying in ruins, the climate having been found of so deadly a nature as to cause its desertion, the attractive properties of mineral wealth or fecundity of soil by no means answering the expecta-

tions of these settlers. Since that time no other Europeans seem to have attempted to occupy it. Indeed, to no other nation but ourselves could it prove of the least service or value; and as Aden seems to answer all the purposes of an excellent position, easily defensible, equally a key to the Red Sea, though less remote from the straits of Babel-Mandel, on this account I should now suppose that the inhabitants of Socotra are free equally from the blessings as from the disadvantages which follow upon the footsteps of European civilization. In the evening we met the Hindostan, on the opposite course to ourselves, conveying numbers of aspiring heroes to the golden shores of the eastern hemisphere. I must freely confess I envied not at that moment their destination; but many there were amongst us who were very envious of the roses on their cheeks, a sad contrast to the pallid countenances which on all sides surrounded me. The weather continued beautifully fine. We threaded some small islands, passing in the night Cape Guardafui, that point of land upon which a

magnificent steamer, called the Memnon, was lost a few months since. The loss of this ship seems almost unaccountable, many persons giving the blame to the officer on watch at the time. A court-martial about to sit upon the captain at Bombay will, no doubt, shew some light upon the subject. The sufferings of the passengers were extreme. Although no lives were lost in the waves of the ocean, two persons died of the hardships they endured on land, the remainder finally arriving in Aden in a most distressed state.

On Thursday, the 5th of April, we steamed into Aden harbour, signalizing our approach with shotted guns, making good practice upon the rocks. Approaching the barren peninsula from the eastward, it reminds me much of Gibraltar, when seen from the same position and distance. A nearer view, however, revealed its truly deserted and forlorn appearance. A solitary flag-staff, and some white tents were the first signs of habitable life, which we espied. On dropping anchor, an immediate rush of coal-barges surrounded us on all sides, manned by fine-

looking, athletic fellows—Abyssinian blacks, who gain a handsome livelihood by this hard work, occasionally taking the place of stokers on board. They come, many of them, from a considerable distance in the interior of Africa, arriving in large parties from the same villages; they remain at this laborious work for a few years, and those who have been sufficiently fortunate to survive, having amassed what to them is considered a handsome competency, return to their native villages with the fruits of their labour either in hard dollars, or with British goods, which latter they dispose of to a great advantage in their native wilds. They are most expert swimmers, which, in their leisure time, seems to be even a more satisfactory amusement than a species of draughts, which they play upon a chequered piece of cloth. They have a singular fashion of dying their glossy black locks of a sandy red, being totally at variance with our ideas upon that subject, as a hundred daily advertisements in the newspapers will shew, yellow hair being with us quite out of vogue. The harbour was a scene of great commotion, owing to a relief of troops having arrived in three steamers a

few days previously. Strange to say, the men were rather reluctant to leave this desert spot, but I am free to confess that the same opinion by no means prevailed amongst their officers, who appeared in as high glee at their departure, as those poor fellows were depressed, who had nought to look forward to, for three weary years, but desert sands and barren rocks, enlivened by the periodical arrival and departure of the steamers from the east or west, bringing out aspirants for fame or fortune in the Eastern El Dorado, or returning with those who bore the sure though melancholy truth, too frequently stamped upon their faces, that "all is not gold that glitters."

A short distance from the beach is a tolerable hotel: it is built of wicker work, covered with mud and plaster, whitewashed, and not only bears a very respectable appearance, but in reality is much better than one has a right to expect. The influx of such an immense body of passengers into so small a place, naturally threw their small economy into disorder; but, notwithstanding this, we managed to obtain a tolerably good bed, dinner, &c. &c. Sleep, either by day

or night, was almost out of the question, for the conglomeration of tongues, at the building of Babel, could not have surpassed the various noises which were given utterance to on all sides. Donkey-boys squabbling and screaming, donkeys braying, children squalling, people singing, others fighting, soda water bottles popping, not only succeeded in rapid succession, but all these sounds, and ten thousand others, vied each with the other, during the fourteen hours I had the honour of calling it my home.

The camp, where the garrison is stationed, and which consists of about fifteen or sixteen hundred men, is situated five miles distant from this harbour—an excellent road, even for carriages, extending the whole way to it. There is a very strong pass to defend the peninsula from the attacks of the Arabs, which, until within the last two years, have been kept up, ever since our occupation of the place, and have principally been conducted at night, in many instances with very considerable loss on their side, though with trifling on our own. A long fortification, called a Turkish wall, has been erected across the narrow neck of land which unites

Aden to the continent of Arabia; and no Arab is allowed to enter the town unless he previously deposit his arms outside, which are returned to him when he leaves.

I was sorry that the short duration of our stay did not permit me to see this fortification. The houses, although primitive to look at, are both commodious and cool, being mostly of one story high, while a few of them possess a dormitory on the roof, open at the sides to allow a free current of air, while a good roof keeps out the night dew and the mid-day sun. The water is by no means good, being strongly impregnated with saline properties, causing to many persons a most unpleasant sensation in the stomach, oftentimes accompanied with vomiting.

At six, in the afternoon of the 7th, we again got under way, having performed the disagreeable operation of coaling in less time than it had ever been previously done. One of our passengers, a colonel of cavalry, was very nearly late, and in consequence of the kindness of the captain in delaying the ship for him, the anchor being up, we were within an ace of running into the H.C.S.S.

Semiramis — great would have been the crash thereof, had we done so.

At six, on the following morning, we passed the narrow strait of Bab-el-Mandeb. This is four miles wide, the larger one being fifteen—a rocky, desert island, equally devoid of vegetation and water, obstructing the channel. We now were fairly within the Red Sea, and at twelve o'clock, the town of Mocha, with its minarets and houses, was distinctly visible, standing out in bold relief, by no means possessing the appearance of tempting coolness. The air, for the first four or five days, both by night and day, was oppressively hot and sultry, and any inconvenience arising from it was by no means alleviated in consequence of the water which we took in at Aden being, as I before described, disagreeable in its taste and consequences.

Having arrived thus far, and within a few days of the termination of our voyage in the eastern seas, I may be expected to say a few words concerning the general arrangements &c. of these steamers. Where there is so much to praise and so little to censure, I feel that in doing so I have by no

means an arduous task, and one which otherwise could not fail to be disagreeable. From the commander down to the cabin-boy, every individual seemed to be desirous and equally anxious to render the voyage pleasant and agreeable, our wishes being almost anticipated. These wishes, I must here observe, particularly on the homeward-bound voyage, are by no means few, old Indians having, by years of luxury, acquired habits not to be relinquished in a moment; added to which, we had on board no less than 122 passengers, so that the stewards' places were no sinecures. We sat down nearly one hundred to dinner daily, were exceedingly well provided and attended, and to such a degree of proficiency are patent cookery and cooking utensils now brought, that two persons alone, a cook and cook's mate, were the only individuals employed in this department. The cabins near the saloon on the main deck were comfortable, airy, and light, and I should advise any traveller to obtain one of these, if possible; they are, however, generally the first secured. Failing of this, I would certainly recommend him next to go forward. Old associations and ideas have

caused us to look upon that portion of the ship as a sort of second-class position; and under this impression, I myself, in common with many others, laboured. In these large eastern vessels no second-class passengers are taken at all; every portion of the ship is therefore upon the same footing. It requires but little consideration to see that even in calm weather, or with the wind right aft, the fore-part must be the coolest, the very way of the ship sending the smell and coal-dust towards the after part; added to which, in calm weather, the bow-ports being open, and some windsails being lowered down, a fresh breeze is constantly wafted through the cabins. Moreover, there is there plenty of light; whereas, the central cabins on the lower deck aft are exceedingly hot, very dark, and disagreeable, from the close and foul air, which has but little chance of escape, and receives continued addition from the orlop-deck, where the baggage is stowed,—as well as from other causes which need not here be mentioned. The baggage-room is opened every morning at half-past ten, and each passenger is allowed to take out any quantity that he can wish, provided always

he does not incommode those who may be in the same cabin with himself. This rule does not apply to any one having a separate cabin, in which case he may fill it as full as he pleases. Personal baggage, to the amount of 500lb. weight, is carried free of charge, an ample allowance for all common purposes.

Although the amount of passage-money may be considered rather high, 163*l.* for each person from Southampton to Calcutta, yet it must be taken into consideration that this sum includes every expense whatever,—carriages, lodging, and provisions being provided, even across the desert of Egypt, while on board-ship, an allowance, *ad libitum*, is granted to every one, in meat and drink of the very best,—all these, as well as the attendance of servants, &c., being without any extra charge; particular attention can be rewarded or not, at pleasure. A surgeon is provided for each vessel, whose attendance and medicine is distributed to all those who request it, free of charge, although those who have required his continued care, oftentimes make him a remuneration for his services. The supply of bed-linen, towels, &c., is almost without limit—a very great con-

venience, thereby causing a large diminution in the quantity of passengers' baggage, and an unnecessary stock of that which in a hot climate is indispensable. No small comfort is experienced in the unlimited supply of fresh water—a condensor, upon a large scale, being fitted, giving upwards of 150 gallons of water, condensed from salt, per diem—hot, cold, and shower baths being at all times ready; indeed, a want of a sufficient number of wind-sails—a trifling fault —was almost the only thing to complain of. The supply of soda-water, although it exceeded 300 dozen, was expended ere half the voyage was over. No lack in quantity can be charged to the company, but rather a mismanagement in its distribution; those, therefore, who deem this an indispensable luxury, would do well to supply themselves with a little store of it, to use when the common stock no longer exists. Should I say more, I shall be accused of having some weighty interest in singing the praises of the ships. I am free to confess I have an immense interest in them, not in the shape of £. *s.* *d.*, but in that feeling which, in my opinion, should animate the breast of every

individual Englishman—the love of seeing science and enterprise, under that much-loved banner, the Union Jack, go hand-in-hand to the uttermost parts of the globe.

On Thursday, the 10th of April, we were opposite the town of Judda, but at too great a distance to be able to distinguish it, which I regret, as it possesses much note, among Mussulmans, as being the nearest port to the renowned Mecca, ships crowded with pilgrims resorting there yearly from the east as well as west. Such, indeed, is the religious enthusiasm displayed in our eastern possessions, that an offer of many thousand rupees was made for the use of the Bentinck to take pilgrims from Calcutta thence, which in this instance could not be accepted; but I have no doubt that, ere many years, they will resort to Mecca in steam-boats, as regularly as they formerly went by caravans; and although in this instance their faith will not be put to such severe trials, yet, as there is nothing said in the Koran against using this mode of conveyance, their consciences need in no way be offended.

A severe gale from the north-west now set

in; the change of temperature was extreme, the thermometer of Fahrenheit falling, during three days, from 86 with a sultry air, to 56 with a strong breeze—not a little trying to old Indians, who had so few days before been gasping for breath. Our stock of warm clothes—in too many instances sadly deficient—was quickly sought out, and those who had been so shortly melting under a grass-cloth jacket, were now glad to cover themselves with an Affghan cloak or pea-coat. The gale scarce abated for four days. During one night, we shipped a very heavy sea off Cosseir, frightening some of the passengers forward, who were floated out of their berths.

CHAPTER XXV.

Mounts Sinai and Horeb—Suez—Crossing the Desert—Andrews' chaises—Grand Cairo—Joseph's Well—Shorba Gardens—Pyramids of Giser—Track boats—Pompey's Pillar—Cleopatra's Needle—Camels—Dock-yards—Sir Ralph Abercrombie.

It was a lovely morning, when the lofty summits of Mounts Sinai and Horeb were descried at a considerable distance, towering amongst the clouds. How much would I have given to have delayed sufficient time to have visited these spots, and to have placed my foot where Moses received the Ten Commandments. Others seemed to think far more of their arrival at Cairo, and their future voyage to England. Against a heavy gale of wind, we steamed through the narrow and dangerous strait of Jubal, and

on the 12th, about noon, cast anchor at Suez. Nothing can be more wretched than the appearance this town presented, as seen from the Red Sea. A small fortified spot, on every side, as far as the eye could reach, surrounded by a mass of desert and arid sand. We proceeded to the shore immediately after dinner, the wind blowing at the same time a smart breeze, directly in our teeth. We were in a small country boat, in manœuvering which, the boatman shewed a degree of ignorance, stupidity, and laziness, scarcely to be credited. As to tacking, such a scheme seemed altogether foreign to their notions, their attempts being confined to wearing, which they executed most infamously, and, in short, only succeeded after five hours in landing us at Suez, a distance of four miles from the ship, bumping on the shores of Africa and Asia every alternate ten minutes. I understand that it is in contemplation to send a small iron steamer over the desert, called the Lotus, upon a platform supported by camels, for the purpose of landing passengers. This will be a most excellent arrangement, and the means of obviating much personal inconvenience.

As it was quite dark, we could not see

much of the town; but I understand that thereby we did not lose a grand sight, as it is by no means more famed for its interior beauty than for its exterior appearance. Vans, upon two wheels and drawn by four horses, of a superior and strong construction, being sent out from England for the purpose, are provided for crossing the Desert. These are built to hold six persons each, which they can pretty conveniently do. It is so arranged that four of these should start at the same time; thus mutually to assist each other, should any accident happen on the road. We started at 2 A.M., the distance being eighty-four miles to Grand Cairo. We changed our horses seven times, and rested twice during the day, each time between three and four hours, at a comfortable sort of cabaret, where tolerable refreshment was provided; and, save and except our losing our way, which detained us in the sands about an hour, arrived in twenty-four hours, scarcely more fatigued, after undergoing the *dreadful* hardships of the Desert, than if we had passed the same time in an English stage coach of the good olden times. Every four or five miles are erected semaphores, which will convey intelligence

from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, if well worked, in about four hours. Near one of these was standing a solitary tree, a species of juniper, to the branches of which votive offerings are attached by the wandering Arabs, which it would be considered great profanation to remove.

It would be doing an injustice to that talented tradesman, Mr. Andrews, of Southampton, were I to omit to mention, that he was the coachmaker who supplied the Transit Company with these excellent vehicles, which are used for the purpose of carrying the passengers across the Desert. Taking into consideration the three essential requisites of lightness, ease, and durability, they stand unrivalled; and although I do not pretend to say, in point of comfort they equal one of Hodson's post chariots, yet I am convinced that no other description of carriage yet invented would have answered the purpose half so well as the four-horse covered spring chaises sent out to Egypt by Mr. Andrews. Such, indeed, is the universal satisfaction which they have given there, that already has he received an order for twelve carriages for his high-

ness the pasha, as well as for other members of his family.

We had several opportunities, during the day, of seeing the extraordinary effect of the mirage, so often mentioned. The appearance of lakes, with even ships in them, and also their reflection in the water, with the opposite coast, was perfect; indeed it required no little difficulty to believe one's senses, when, upon almost driving into them, we found them still barren desert sands.

The dead carcases of camels are sure guides by day-time, lying in great numbers on either side of the track. We passed one poor beast in its dying struggles; it was unable to rise, and having been, as we ascertained, two days in that position, would no doubt soon become nothing more than a road-beacon itself. Its unfortunate owner was sitting on its pack-saddle by its side, in a melancholy mood. We entered Grand Cairo in the middle of the night, and therefore we did not see the environs of the city. We put up at a very capital hotel, kept by a Frenchman, a brother of Ali Pacha's cook—Hotel D'Orient,—where we

fared, during our short stay, uncommonly well. On the following morning, we hired a clever Maltese, to act as dragoman. The first thing we visited was the citadel, which is situated in the upper part of the town. It has been much repaired of late, and may be called rather a strong building; but, unfortunately, it is completely commanded from a neighbouring eminence, about four hundred yards distance, from which it could be shelled at leisure. The square is shewn where the murder of the Mamelukes took place, and the spot from which the only one who escaped leapt his horse over the parapet, saving his own life at the expense of his animal. I am told he is at present alive, and resides at Constantinople. Mahomed Ali has for many years employed a considerable number of workmen in building a magnificent mosque within the citadel. It is composed of marble brought down the Nile, from Assoan, and has somewhat the appearance of the stalagmites of a lime-stone quarry. It is brittle, but when worked up is very beautiful. This building he intends for a sepulchre for his remains. It is scarcely possible he should live to see it completed, but I should hope that it would

not be neglected at his death, as it is worthy of a better fate than that of becoming a ruin prior to its completion.

We descended some steps into what is termed Joseph's Well, report making him the originator of this curious work. It is square, with a staircase descending very abruptly on the outer side, small windows being cut through the soft, porous stone, through which we were enabled to look into the interior, and obtain a little light. It appeared to be of immense depth. The Arabs, moreover, stated that this quadrangular staircase led below the surface of the water, which we could not see, so great a distance were we then above it. Of course, the staircase was there devoid of light. None of us seemed the least inclined to prove the reality of this assertion by personal inspection, and consequently were unable to contradict what appeared to us anything but a credible tale.

In the afternoon, we drove out to the Shorba Gardens, which would, in any country, be called exceedingly beautiful, being laid out after the Eastern fashion, with orange trees, and containing also a vast number of European shrubs. There are also some handsome fountains. We had scarcely time to

look well over them, when we were summoned to the presence of their wonderful owner, Mahomed Ali, who received us in a comfortable room, surrounded by a divan. He begged us to be seated, and immediately entered into conversation, through an interpreter, who spoke French. He asked a thousand questions relative to China, more especially regarding trade, which we had some difficulty in answering; but when we told him that the whole of the south of that gigantic empire was almost devoid of horses, he seemed perfectly amazed. He was in excellent health, and, at parting, sprang off the sofa with the agility of a young man of twenty. His manners were lively, and very polite, much more so than we expected to have found from the description we had heard of him. Our stay in Grand Cairo being short, we were obliged to make the most of our time; and, on the following morning, started about six for the large pyramids of Giser, distant from the town, at this season, about three hours' ride, breakfast having been ordered for our whole party to be prepared in one of the tombs. Having ridden for an hour, we had to cross the Nile in ferry boats, which, with a party

of nearly twenty-five donkeys, took some little time to accomplish.

In this village were situated a vast number of the Egyptian hatching-ovens for fowls, in one of which they stated there were seven thousand eggs in different stages. They, however, were filthy places to enter; and as the fear of the plague is not altogether ideal, we did not choose to examine them minutely, particularly as they may be seen in London under a still more extraordinary process—that of steam, or, as I have already mentioned in Manila, that of the people themselves, acting in the capacity of the feathered tribe.

After this we rode through clover fields, where we saw a number of handsome strong horses belonging to the pasha's artillery. The stupendous pyramids, the most conspicuous object on the route, are situated just upon the verge of the cultivated country. So much has been written about them by those who really know something of the subject, that I, who know nothing, shall hold my tongue. Suffice to say, I went as far inside the largest as I was able, and nearly broke my head for my pains; having next mounted, with some labour, to the

summit, I was rewarded by an extensive view of the Nile, the city of Cairo on one side, and miles of desert plain on the other, while more immediately around me were engraven the names of previous adventurous travellers of both sexes, among which was that of a Miss Sally Brown, of New York, who, possessing the ambition that she should be handed down to posterity as worthy the imitation of all her sex, took the pains of continually engraving her name in the most unlikely places for any of them to follow. The Sphynx, which is situated on the eastern side, is, perhaps, as remarkable as the pyramid itself. The features are very perfect, but the sand has almost covered the body, although much pains had been taken, not long since, to remove it. I was somewhat amused, on our way home, by one of our Arab guides, who professed the English language in all its branches. Upon our asking the road, he cried out, "No force—Donkum speak street—Donkum sabe." It took me no little pains to make out his meaning. On our return we were glad to refresh ourselves with a Turkish bath, after the most approved fashion. Pipes, coffee, and a good sham-

pooing being most refreshing after the fatigue of our day's excursion, especially after the continued lazy life we had led in the East. We visited the Italian theatre in the evening; it was well attended in the upper circles by ladies, the pit being filled by Italian officers in the Egyptian costume, in the pay of the pacha, most of them doctors to his troops. The comedy of Monsieur Tonson was well performed, and amused even those very much who were unacquainted with the language.

We were obliged, on the following morning, to embark for Alexandria, at the risk, by our neglecting to do so, of losing our passage to England. We did this in a small vessel called the Lotus, drawing about three feet, which, nevertheless, managed to touch the ground some dozen times prior to her arrival at Atfee, where the famous Mamoodie canal, to Alexandria, joins the river. These small iron vessels save an immense deal of time and labour, performing the distance, about ninety miles, in twelve or fourteen hours, which, in sailing boats, is seldom done, unless with a very fair wind, under three or four days. This vessel had lately been up the Nile as far as Assoan, much above

Thebes, having been hired from the company for the purpose, by H.B.M.'s Consul. In the middle of the night we left our snug little steamer for a track-boat, in which exchange I was within an ace of falling into the Nile, owing to its being totally dark, and no means being provided to shew the right way. I was afterwards informed that had I done so, I never should have risen again; as, however well a person may swim, by no means an accomplishment which I profess to possess, he has no chance of saving himself, as the mud at the bottom is so tenacious that, if once the feet enter it, they cannot be again extricated, and thus I should have been smothered, literally, at the foot of the companion-ladder, all my more fortunate fellow-passengers quietly stepping over my head, unconscious of my state, and little thinking in what an awkward position a false step on their part might place them. The boats were very crowded. I cannot say this latter portion of our journey in the track-boat in the canal, which lasted twelve hours more, was very agreeable; we, indeed, were all glad to find ourselves lodged, after a grand race upon donkeys, and a rush for rooms, in the Hôtel

d'Orient, in the great square at Alexandria, under the same proprietor as the French hotel at Cairo, but sadly wanting the eye of the master to keep it in equal form and regularity.

There is nothing worthy of a long stay in Alexandria, and as we were detained for five days, waiting for the Bombay mail, we had full leisure to look carefully over all there was. Pompey's Pillar is, perhaps, the most unique thing of the kind in the world: it is composed of three pieces of granite—a base, a shaft, and a capital. The shaft is one gigantic pillar of hewn stone; it is very difficult to imagine how it could have been raised to its present position. It would cost a vast expenditure of time and money, in the present state of the sciences, to erect so gigantic a block in such a position, and does of itself prove how advanced they must have been in mechanics at the days of its erection. The next remarkable object is the Needle of Cleopatra, which is standing close to the city wall, in a very mean situation, beyond some dirty hovels. This is a beautiful pillar of granite, square, gradually decreasing in size at its extremity, covered with hieroglyphics on all four sides: that towards the south-

west seems to have suffered with the desert wind, the stone having flaked off, leaving the engraving upon it almost obliterated; whereas, on the north-east, they appear as sharp as if they had been recently cut. The fellow needle is lying upon the ground, having, as I understood, been thrown down during our occupation of Egypt for the purpose of being removed to England, it being still considered as the property of Great Britain. I was informed that occasionally letters come out about it, but the subject has almost dropped to the ground. This is a sad pity, as its removal would cost but a small sum of money, it being close to the sea-shore; and in the meanwhile it is suffering considerably, not so much by the ravages of time, as by the hands of the Arab boys, who are using their endeavours to send it to Europe piece-meal, in the shape of small bits, which, when they have broken off, they offer to collectors of curiosities, for *bacsish—id. est*, money—who take them home, the better to inform their less travelled citizen friends, that they have positively seen these needles, and that they are really of stone, not of steel.

Many improvements are being carried

forward in regard to the New Town, which is rapidly progressing, and has entirely the appearance of a European one. It is curious, however, that during the vast excavations and turning up of the soil, which is necessarily carried on for this purpose, that very few antiquities should ever be discovered. Nearly the whole of this ground seems to be hollow, and the numerous arched wells everywhere testify how well the ancient city must have been supplied with this requisite article, water, though the channels by which it reaches the city are now no longer known. Many of these wells are so slenderly covered, that they are dangerous to pass over, and, indeed, during an afternoon walk, upon one occasion, I saw a poor camel fall into one of them. The well was upwards of twenty feet to the surface of the water, of which there was plenty in it below. I stayed a few minutes; all endeavours seemed fruitless to raise the poor beast, who, no doubt, was soon dead, as this animal will never use the slightest exertion to save itself from danger, however easy might be the means it should employ, but at once gives itself up for lost. The large square of Alexandria, surrounded as it is by spacious edifices, more especially

that of the Greek consul, which stands at one end, is striking, but sadly wants a few trees, to break the glare of so many white buildings. As to the bazaars and shops, they appear a poor imitation of those of a European town, after recovering from the effects of a siege. Much, however, seems to have been done, and much indeed is still needed, to bring them into anything like order or respectability.

We visited the dock-yards and the shipping, which have so lately been the talk of all Europe; and certainly, the order which the admiral's ninety-gun ship was in would do credit to the fleet of any nation. It was exceedingly fortunate that we went the day we did, for on the following, the plague broke out on board, and was raging there when we left the harbour.

No one can look upon the immense range of buildings which have been erected by this wonderful Pasha, for carrying on the different stages of building, and fitting out a fleet, without astonishment at his genius. Where, scarce ten years since was a desert, now stand these lengthy edifices, piles of guns of the newest fashion, rope walks, stores of cloth, sails, rope, &c. A little question,

however, starts up, to which as yet we can get no answer—*cui bono*—for what use or intent are all these things? A fleet which never leaves the harbour—gigantic ships, most of them broken-backed ere they are rigged. This was very well when the selfish dictate of pride prompted this extraordinary man to raise himself and family to the rank of a potentate from that of a minister—his ends in this respect gained and acknowledged throughout Europe, what further use has he of all this display—grinding his unfortunate subjects to pay for his fancies? Rather let him, with real honesty of purpose, turn his sword into a ploughshare, and, in the place of dragging the unfortunate sons of Nubia into bloody battle-fields, let them quietly cultivate the soil, from which will spring tenfold greater advantages than what are to be reaped either at the edge of the sword, or at the cannon's mouth; and in place of wasting both the resources of this fertile country as well as its willing inhabitants, in unprofitable expeditions against the Wahabees, or in endeavours to increase the size of his territories at their expense, let him look well after what he has, lest that

also should slip or glide out of the reach of a family that has nothing to recommend it to the affections of the people, subjected to its rule, but which, by every act, reminds them of the chains and fetters with which they are bound to minister to his pleasures.

Having gone through the storehouses, we requested to see the dry dock, which had lately been finished under the superintendence of one of his favourite French engineers. We found the basin filled with water to the brim, and upon inquiry ascertained that it had once been pumped out, but that now all their endeavours to do so, failed in consequence of some springs of water having burst up the stones from the bottom, with which it was lined, this *talented* engineer having never conceived the necessity of constructing an inverted arch, to give it greater solidity, against the pressure from the water beneath. This work had already cost upwards of two hundred thousand pounds, and five years' labour. One steam-engine, which was already erected, and a second had been ordered, both from England, as well as the engineers to work them; and had he applied

to the same country for an honest man to construct this dock, in the first instance, in all probability it would have been finished a year or two since, and would really have been a dry one, which it is by no means at present. But our more lively brethren over the water have for many years had the complete ear of the Pasha, and it was only at the termination of the Syrian war, that Mohammed Ali began to discover that many of their fine speeches were but little to be depended upon, and that the blunt truths of some few Englishmen, whom he deigned occasionally to consult, however unpleasant to his palate, were in the sequel more wholesome, though less savoury.

It would be difficult to make a just calculation of the large sum of money which must be expended in Egypt, by the passengers, in their transit and hotel expenses in Cairo and Alexandria. Upon a very rough one which I made, I should be inclined to think that at least 3000*l.* was disbursed by our party alone, 15*l.* being charged for the transit of the Desert for each passenger, independent of the expenditure consequent upon our week's detention. Moreover, a

considerable quantity of freight was sent from India in the shape of silk and indigo. A vast deal of this money must flow into the pockets of the Pasha, and be an inducement for so clear-sighted a prince not to put any difficulties in the way, which it is but justice to observe, he by no means did, even during the late war.

Some absurd stories have lately got into the papers about the risk of attacks of Bedouins, in crossing the Desert; it is needless to add how ridiculous they are, the Pasha not being the man to allow his authority to be set at nought quite so near his own capital. While he was engaged in the Syrian campaign, and also had a large army occupied in endeavours to bring under his subjection the Wahabees, some little chance might exist of such a thing, but at present the idea is quite ridiculous.

The morning prior to our departure we visited the death-bed of Abercrombie, not distant from Alexandria more than five miles. We traced without difficulty the field of action, and were shewn the spot where Sir Ralph fell. The visit of our army to Alexandria is not likely to be forgotten by

the inhabitants, as there now exists an immense lake, where then were fruitful fields and villages; this was caused by our letting in the water, in order to get our gun-boats sufficiently near to play upon the rear of the French, and in which we most effectually succeeded. They have never since been able to regain the soil which was thus destroyed, and if ever they should do so, the effluvia from so much decomposed mud would, in all probability, be so great for many summers, as to cause an immense sacrifice of life in the city. Near the battle field is the site and some remains of the famous library of Alexandria: this is situated on the sea shore, and was then included in the district called Brunchion, which also contained the Basilicon, or king's palace, and must in those days have been the royal portion of the city. What a change! Where then was royal magnificence, now is little more than a sandy desert—and where then groaned the tables of magnificence and opulence, lean flocks are now scarce able to pick up a scanty subsistence.

On our return, by slightly deviating from the road, we were enabled to see two hand-

some colossal statues, which we supposed to have been the work of the Romans, from ancient Egyptian models. They had been dug up by an English gentleman, intending that they should have been sent to the British Museum. The owner of the soil, however, who objected to this, fancying they are of great value, has allowed them to lie exposed to the weather, which has already begun to injure them, and should they remain there much longer, they will be soon considerably damaged.

CHAPTER XXVI.

The Great Liverpool—Mountains of Candia—Malta—St. Elmo—Quarantine—Sicily—Mount Etna—Pantleria — Tunis — Bona — Algiers — Abd-el-Kader — Gibraltar—Europa-point—Trafalgar—Cape St. Vincent—Bay of Biscay—Isle of Wight.

On Wednesday, the 25th of April, the passengers from Bombay having arrived, we embarked in the Great Liverpool for England. Never was steamer so crowded—great and small, we numbered no less than 172 passengers, thirty more than she had ever previously carried. The desire to please and be pleased seemed, however, to pervade all classes. The weather was exceedingly fine; the sea calm; on the second day of our voyage, we saw the lofty mountains in Candia, they ap-

peared about fifty miles distant. I never can forget the sensations which their hoary tops seemed to inspire in our Eastern passengers, many of whom had not seen ice or snow since the days of their childhood. Their eyes were transfixed: scarce could they be persuaded that they were not looking upon clouds. The vivid recollections of their school-boy days being suddenly raked up in their minds, many a joyous expression escaped their lips, at being thus assured of their return towards those long sighed-for scenes—alas, to many, very many, so sadly changed, and perchance, if the real truth were spoken, by far the greater portion of them, six short months after they had thrown up all in the distant home they had created for themselves, to reach that which nature had taught them to look upon as their promised land—the home of their nativity,—perchance, the larger portion would gladly have found themselves back again in the sunny scenes more suited to the tastes they had acquired, saying, England is no longer the England I knew it as a boy —all is changed. What are rail-roads—what are steam-boats to me? I returned to

find a happy solace in the snug little cottage where first I drew breath, to receive the warm and hearty congratulations of those who, born in the same rural town, were brought up at the same school; now over the very chimney tops of my once happy home a gigantic brick arch is constructed, and the rattling of engines perpetually dinning in my ears; where the quiet school-house stood, is now an immense factory—the only subject of discussion among the legislators being, whether twelve or fourteen hours of incessant labour shall be imposed upon its unfortunate inhabitants. And as to the friends of my youth—where are they? Too many, alas, departed; others, though not dead, equally cold; scarce any one survives that cares about me, except, perhaps, some very affectionate niece, extremely anxious to be united to a love-sick ensign; or a graceless nephew, who is sadly tormented by lawyers' letters from Oxford. These, indeed, pay me fawning and obsequious attention, thinking that a little trouble and time may chance be not wasted upon the old nabob, who already having contracted a severe cold, from winter fog or a

wet summer, cannot, in human probability last more than one cold season, and then who can have a better claim upon my hard-earned rupees, who upon my diamond necklace, than this said smart Oxonian, or my truly affectionate niece, the offspring of dear relatives, who—with the exception of reading his name, occasionally mentioned in the Gazette, as having received a brevet majority, in exchange for a leg, or a colonelcy for an eye, at the siege of Bhurtpoore or *Bombay*, the occupation of Cabul or *Calcutta*—they neither knew nor took the trouble to inquire whether such an individual was in existence or not.

How much, then, ought we to feel ourselves indebted to steam! Now, home can be reached in two short months from any one of the presidencies, and although some little difficulties or discomforts are to be met with in the transit, yet what wonderful changes are the consequence, what incalculable advantages to be enjoyed from this astonishing power.

On the 29th of April, about mid-day, we rounded the battlements of the terrible fort of St. Elmo, and entered the quarantine harbour at Malta. Great addition had been

made to the lazaretto since my last visit; but it is hardly so much occupied as formerly, persons preferring to spend their waste time, as often as possible, in an homeward-bound voyage, on ship-board, to locating themselves within the dull monotony of four walls of a lazaretto. The days spent on board a ship being not more irksome at sea, whether the yellow flag is flying at the mast-head or not, only affecting the passengers when the ship visits a port. As yet, no credit is given at Marseilles for the voyage from Egypt to that town, twenty-one to twenty-six days' of quarantine having to be endured there. This is of considerable benefit to the Peninsula Company, for were it otherwise, numerous passengers would flock home, *via* France, preferring the land journey across that country to the tossing and buffeting which so often accrues to them over the dreaded Bay of Biscay. The Parlatoria at the lazaretto was crowded by itinerant vendors of every description of articles of jewellery, of hosiery, ices, canary birds, and lap-dogs; they seemed to enjoy a considerable degree of success in conveying the superfluous cash from the pockets of our

numerous Nabobs, fresh from the golden East, into their necessitous fobs; and as nothing, save the jewellery, when once touched, could be returned by any of our party, for fear of infection, a close discrimination was rendered impossible, and many a bargain would gladly have been rescinded if such had been permitted.

We received permission to visit the grand harbour, being towed by four rowers at the stern of another boat, something after the fashion of malefactors going to the gallows; indeed, every one seemed to regard us as worse than mad dogs, not as if we had only come from a suspected country, but as if we really were infected with that dreadful disorder, of which they took such pains to prevent an entry into their town. To those who remember its former ravages in this island, this, indeed, may appear nothing more than necessary; but I fancy that the large quarantine establishment which this strict surveillance necessarily calls into operation, and the consequent patronage and expenditure of money, has quite as much to do in keeping it in constant use, as any real or fancied necessity for it.

The church, for the building of which the Queen Dowager subscribed so handsomely, appeared to be quite completed. It seemed to be after the model of the Temple of Theseus at Athens, to which had been appended a large square Moorish watch-tower, for what use or intention it would be difficult to determine. It, however, has the effect of hiding a considerable portion of the building, on the only side in which it can be seen to advantage.

We sailed again on the 30th, and were fortunate enough, in passing Sicily, to see a fine eruption of Mount Etna, though at so considerable a distance, as to render it extremely indistinct. On the following day we passed Pantleria, a lofty and beautiful island, which is used as a penal settlement by the Sicilians. Tunis, the ancient Carthage, was at too great a distance for us to make out any of the buildings; an indistinct view of the harbour being all we could obtain. The country about it seemed rich and plentiful. On the following day, Bona, in the new French territories, was distinctly visible; and during this and the succeeding one, we coasted the shore of Algeria, almost

within gun-shot. Here and there patches of cultivation existed, and upon the whole it presented the appearance of a fertile country. Large mountains ran down near to the sea; what lay on their southern sides, we were ignorant. The great deficiency, and which probably has for so long a time proved their safeguard from the aggression of Europeans, is the want of harbours, not such a thing existing, save the Mole at Algiers, from Carthage to the Atlantic Ocean.

On the 3rd of May, we passed Algiers, and through the kindness of Captain M'Cloud, who deviated a little from the direct route, we were enabled to have a most perfect view of the town and settlement in the immediate neighbourhood, passing the batteries within musket range. Great improvements seem to have taken place since I last saw it, about five years previously, notwithstanding the unfavourable reports which we see daily promulgated in the papers. True enough, from one cause or another, the French have made comparatively small advancement during the fourteen years which they have had possession of the town, and nominal possession of the territory; indeed, I am

given to understand that it is not now considered safe to advance more than a few leagues from the capital, without being both well armed and strongly attended. The immediate neighbourhood of Algiers bears traces of being well cultivated, and as possessing the power of great productiveness, and doubtless, under a better colonial system, much more direct profit would accrue; and with a more conciliatory government, it is to be hoped that less bloodshed would be the yearly result of the *civilization* which is continually attempted. In the meanwhile it is impossible too much to admire that determined patriot, Abd-el-Kader, who, for so many years (now nearly fourteen) has been unceasingly employing the full energies of his determined mind in endeavours to establish both the power of those under whose sway he received birth, and the religion which he had uniformly been taught to believe was the only true faith; nor have the most earnest entreaties or lavish promises the slightest effect in making him, for one instant, deviate from his sworn hatred against the invaders of his country. The town of Algiers itself seems as if it were

undergoing great alterations and improvements, numerous large and well-built houses springing up in all directions, both near the edge of the sea, and above the higher part of the old town. The harbour, which is very contracted, was filled with shipping—three or four large steamers lying within the mole; immense masses of coal were also piled up in pyramids near the wharf.*

The restrictions we were labouring under, on account of quarantine, even if it had not been contrary to the regulations of the company, prevented our landing, which one and all were most anxious to have done. Having taken, therefore, a panoramic view of Algiers, the ancient terror of Christendom, without stopping the speed of our engines, we again stood out of the bay, still coasting the northern shore of Africa. This part of the voyage, during fine weather, is rendered the more interesting from the circumstance that the coast, always peculiarly agreeable to a landsman, is in sight almost the entire distance from Malta to Gibraltar; and, in truth, during our voyage we had the good

* Since writing the above, an immense fire has destroyed a considerable portion of the town.

fortune to encounter the fickle Mediterranean in one of her best of humours, an entire calm existing from the coast of Syria to the Atlantic Ocean, the whole time we had the pleasure of steaming over it.

About noon, on the 3rd of April, we were closing fast with the lofty Cabo de Gato, and on the following morning we lay to for about an hour, immediately opposite the town of Malaga, to repair some defect which had taken place in the machinery of the engine; disconnecting one shaft, we proceeded at a slower rate while they were placing the other under repair. The old fortress of Gibraltar hove in sight about 10 A.M., calling forth many a reminiscence of days gone by. We rounded Europa Point about 3 P.M., anchoring very near to the remains of the American steamer which was burned about six months previously—a portion of the iron paddle being the only part now above water. Great improvements seem to have taken place in the fortifications within the last few years; indeed, they still seem to be under operation, but with this exception, I could perceive but little difference in any way from what I formerly

remembered. We obtained a supply of water and fresh provisions; the part of the engine which had been defective was set to rights by 11 P.M., at which hour we again steamed out of the harbour, and by breakfast-time on the following morning, the headland of Trafalgar, associated in our ideas with such glorious recollections, was in sight.

We rounded Cape St. Vincent ere it was light, on the morning of the 6th, and therefore had but an imperfect view of the convent of Sagres, so noted in history, as the dwelling-place of Prince John of Portugal, and where he arranged those projects for territorial acquirements in the eastern hemisphere. The same afternoon we were off the city of Lisbon, of which we had a very good view—the Palace of the Ajuda above Belem, being clearly discernible. The town of Cintra is almost hid from the sea, although the hill above it is a conspicuous object. Ere it was dark the magnificent convent at Mafra glistened in the sun, calling forth strange recollections to many of our old campaigners. This building must be of stupendous proportions, to judge from

the extraordinary size it appeared, although we were at a distance of nearly fifteen or sixteen miles from it.

On Wednesday, the 8th, the high cliffs of Cape Finisterre, were on our starboard bow, and shortly after we were well in the Bay of Biscay. The weather, however, was so very calm, that all the looked-for terrors by many of the passengers, in this portion of the voyage, soon vanished, and we were fortunate enough to retain it as far as the Channel. The light of Ushant became visible on Thursday evening, the 9th, and by Friday, the 10th, we were well anchored in the quarantine ground opposite Ryde. I never shall forget the feelings which were expressed on all sides by those who had so many years since left for India, the days of their childhood breaking fresh upon so many well remembered scenes, both in reality as well as in appearance, so changed to them.

The Isle of Wight looked particularly beautiful, as the weather during the time we spent our quarantine opposite Ryde was very fine; so much so, as to call forth the acknowledgments of some foreigners, our

fellow-passengers, that it did not *always* rain in England. The nawaub of Surat, who was on his way to visit the wonders of Europe, amused us much, saying that the island was certainly pretty, but it was a sad thing to see it so encumbered with jungle; he had an idea that England had been entirely cleared and cultivated long since.

To recount the surprise which was evinced both by foreigners and those of our countrymen who had been long absent from home, at the wonders of the rail-road, would be but to repeat an oft-told tale, while the exclamations at the immense size and grandeur of London, would only serve to feed our national vanity, sufficiently puffed up already, the merit of much patience and perseverance being justly due to my readers if they have borne with me so long.

THE END.

T. C. Savill, Printer, 107, St. Martin's Lane.

00086063

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 20 February, 2016